

Hospital in the Home Delivery of Long-acting Antiretroviral Therapy

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Background:

Long-acting injectable (LAI) cabotegravir (CAB) and rilpivirine (RPV) is an effective alternative to daily oral ART for people living with HIV (PLWH) facing challenges with adherence due to stigma, medication fatigue or other psychosocial barriers.

Furthermore, regular clinic attendance remains difficult for certain individuals. We describe a novel Hospital in the Home (HITH) model for delivering LAI ART.

Approach:

A protocol for the management and administration of LAI ART through HITH was developed in collaboration between HIV and HITH physicians and specialist nurses. HIV-specific training was provided for HITH nursing staff prior to launch. Patients are identified and referred from the Infectious Diseases outpatient clinic. Following commencement of LAI ART on site, the HITH program coordinates ongoing planned readmissions to the HITH program for administration of intramuscular CAB/RPV every 8 weeks alongside clinical assessment and pathology collection at the time of administration (at month 1, 3 and then 6-monthly ongoing). If a patient is found to have a detectable HIV viral load while on the program, their treating HIV physician is notified immediately, otherwise physician reviews occur as per the standard schedule. On admission to the program an individual escalation plan is developed for managing missed injections. The program allows for flexibility in injection administration location, with patients choosing to receive their LAI ART at home, at work, or by attending the ambulatory care centre at Austin Health. The protocol was approved by a multidisciplinary advisory board and the program has commenced. Patient outcomes and experiences from the initial cohort are being evaluated and will be presented.

Significance:

This program illustrates that home-based HIV care is not only feasible and safe but reflects a scalable, patient-centred, flexible innovation that may improve patient engagement in HIV care, improve long-term health outcomes for PLWH and promote health equity for vulnerable populations.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None.