**A NOVEL HEPATITIS C INTERVENTION IN DENMARK TO TEST AND TREAT PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS**

Lazarus JV[1], Øvrehusm A[2], Demant J[3], Krohn-Deli L[4], Weis N[4,5], van der Veen J[3]

*[1]Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Hospital Clínic, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, [2]Odense University Hospital, Denmark, [3]Users Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark, [4]Copenhagen University Hospital, Hvidovre, Department of Infectious Diseases, Denmark, [5]Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

**Background:**
Providing hepatitis C virus (HCV) care for people who inject drugs (PWID) is critical in eliminating HCV, but reaching PWID with traditional healthcare services can be challenging. Combining point-of-care (PoC) testing with peer support and counselling is a model of care (MoC) that can be effective for PWID. This study aims to investigate if a mobile van equipped with rapid PoC tests for HCV antibodies and RNA could simplify testing and link PWID to care.

**Description of model of care/intervention:**
In Copenhagen, Denmark, a peer-led mobile service providing counselling, Ab testing (In-Tech™), and linkage to care was equipped with a PoC HCV-RNA finger-prick test (Xpert HCV Viral Load Finger-Stick Point-of-Care Assay, Cepheid). Eligible HCV-RNA+ individuals were offered assisted referral to a fast-track hospital clinic for treatment, with peer support as needed.

**Effectiveness:**
From 1 May 2019-22 April 2021, 774 people were tested and 72 were HCV-RNA+. Nine additional individuals with HCV infection contacted the service to be linked to care. 63/72 were evaluated at the hospital clinic and 55/72 initiated direct-acting antiviral therapy. The main reasons for not being evaluated for treatment were being undocumented (n= 10) and being lost to follow-up (n= 10). 14/55 were connected to drug treatment services. The peer-led service assisted all treated with communication with the hospital nurse, collecting medicine, and accompaniment to follow-up visits.

**Conclusion and next steps:** We found that a peer-led mobile PoC service is a MoC that can engage PWID in HCV testing and link them to treatment, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being an undocumented migrant was a major cause for not accessing care. This poses a challenge for HCV elimination in Denmark due to the risk of onward transmission. The next steps include engaging with health authorities in order to provide care for undocumented migrants.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**
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