

Nurse Practitioner led PrEP and STI testing at a MSM sex on premises venue

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Background/Purpose:

WAAC, in partnership with the WA Department of Health and Perth Steamworks (PSW), increased the number of clinics over a one month period from 13/03/2023 to 06/04/2023. This was to increase the number of clients tested for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and blood borne viruses (BBV) but also in a first for the service, provide a Nurse Practitioner (NP) at some clinics to prescribe Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) scripts to eligible clients.

Approach:

WAAC was already testing at PSW on Thursday nights. Medicare is not required for testing, however for PrEP, Medicare was required for the renal function tests and eScripts. The NP staffed six clinics and PrEP consultations were offered to clients on-site. The Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) staffed another five clinics for STI/BBV testing and could add renal function testing if the client was interested in PrEP and be rebooked for follow up.

Outcomes/Impact:

A total of 51 clients presented during this period. The median age was 40 years and a third of the clients were new to the service. Just under half of the clients had tested within the last six months and seven clients had never tested before. One quarter of those clients who tested had an abnormal STI/BBV result and over half of these clients had a rectal bacterial infection. Of the 35 clients who saw the NP, a third were issued with a PrEP prescription.

Innovation and Significance:

This is an innovative project that was responsive to the needs of the men who have sex with men (MSM) community to trial a NP-led PrEP clinic. Infrequent testing, high rates of STIs and not being on PrEP are all linked to increased HIV acquisition. This project shows that a NP-led outreach clinic reduces barriers to accessing PrEP in a high risk population group.

Disclosure of interest statement

None