

# **INTEGRATION OF ONSITE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTATION AND HEPATITIS C TREATMENT IN A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER NETWORK; PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

## **Authors:**

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## **Background:**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection continues to be a pressing public health issue. Identification of chronic infection is important in primary care settings and community health centers to link and retain patients in appropriate care. However, restrictive Medicaid policies around fibrosis level, substance sobriety, and prescriber restrictions limit patient's access to new HCV treatment. This innovative treatment program was developed in the primary care setting in order to deliver quality care through comprehensive behavioral health consultation to meet the demand of those engaging in treatment.

## **Description of model of care/intervention:**

This program integrated onsite HCV treatment to create a "test and treat" approach within a federally qualified health center (FQHC) network utilizing mid-level providers to address this issue. An interdisciplinary care team was established to optimize patient experience around HCV care and treatment by minimizing social determinants of health that lead to negative health outcomes associated with HCV infection by providing comprehensive behavioral health consultation (BHC) to HCV positive patients seeking treatment.

## **Effectiveness:**

From January 2015 to May 2017, the PHMC Care Clinic medical providers referred 189 patients for HCV treatment. Of these, 112 patients have successfully obtained sustained virologic response (SVR) lab results, a 59.3% success rate from referral to cure. Additionally, BHC was significant at increasing our insurance approval rates (85% vs 68%,  $P=0.0095$ ) and significant in moving patients from approval to starting treatment ( $OR= 14.24$ ,  $P=0.003$ ).

## **Conclusion and next steps:**

This treatment program successfully integrated HCV treatment in a patient population heavily effected by substance abuse and mental illness in a primary care community health center. Support and adoption of this program in urban primary care community health centers can help meet the need of the increasing number of patients who are eligible for treatment.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement: See example below:**

There is no disclosure of interest at this time.