Role of Physicians in Coalitions to Eliminate Hepatitis and Develop Elimination Plans

Risha Irvin, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases
Director, Generation Tomorrow
Director, Sharing the Cure
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Barriers to Hepatitis C Care and Treatment

**Health care system issues**
- Burden of optional preventive care
- High proportion of uninsured
- Limited reimbursement for HCV care
- Lack of integrated care models

**Workforce issues**
- Insufficient number of providers who can treat HCV
- Insufficient resources for case managers, navigators, social workers

**Primary care provider barriers**
- Knowledge (misconceptions about who to screen, progression risk and treatment)
- Perceptions (may only refer good candidates who they perceive to need treatment)

**Specialist barriers**
- Knowledge (some providers may have limited HCV treatment experience)
- Perceptions (concerns about non-adherence, drug use, relapse, risk of re-infection)

**General barriers**
- General health care access (primary care provider, insurance, health literacy, patient provider-relationship)
- Competing health priorities (mental health, comorbidities)
- Stability factors (substance use, employment, income housing, drug treatment, social support)

**HCV-specific barriers**
- Poor knowledge
- Lack of symptoms
- Fears about treatment

**Flowchart:**
1. Chronic HCV infection
2. HCV diagnosis
3. Linkage to care
4. Treatment initiation
5. Viral clearance
Community Commitment: Generation Tomorrow and Generation Tomorrow: Summer Health Disparity Scholars

- Increase awareness and detection of HIV and HCV in Baltimore
  - Promote comprehensive care of individuals impacted by HIV and HCV infections

- Engage and involve community members and the next generation of health professionals in HIV and HCV work by training and deploying them to conduct HIV/HCV counseling, testing, and outreach
  - Create a pipeline to health careers for diverse applicants

- Enhance the cultural competence of participants
Generation Tomorrow and the Continuum of Care

Estimated Number and Percentage of HIV Infected Adults Engaged in Selected Stages of the Continuum of Care

- Awareness efforts aim to reduce #s infected
- Linkage services aim to increase those engaged in care
- Testing efforts aim to increase those who know their status

Field Assignment: Sisters Together and Reaching, Inc.
Accessibility of Care

- **Sharing the Cure: Provider Training and Practice Transformation**
  - Launched in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health in 2014
    - Public health implementation project (2014-2019)
    - Primary Care Providers would be able to treat HCV infection under Maryland Medicaid as a provider specializing in hepatitis C
  - **Comprehensive Program**
    - Focused on HCV testing, diagnosis, linkage, treatment along with program implementation
    - Provider training ➔ Staff training programs
    - Practice transformation
Sharing the Cure

• Program Components
  – In person introductory conference
    • Hepatitis C program implementation
  – Videoconference Series (case presentation)
Advocacy

• Physicians must be involved in advocacy related to hepatitis C

• Maryland Hepatitis Coalition

• Maryland Hepatitis Summit-November 2019
Thank you

- Contact information: Risha Irvin; rirvin1@jhmi.edu