Massive HCV treatment effort is underway in Australia

- Highly effective medicines available on PBS since March
- 26,000 people started treatment March-July 2016
  - Monitoring hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia, Kirby Institute
- Could we eliminate HCV in Australia?
Two out of three Australian OST clients are HCV+

• HCV treatment feasible in OST settings
• With good outcomes
• Especially in conjunction peer-led support services
  • ETHOS study

Who are we treating when we treat in OST?

• Not all HCV+ people who inject drugs use opioids, or want OST
• Many people with HCV are no longer injecting or engaged in treatment for substance use
• What % of people with HCV can be treated through OST settings?
Aim

- What proportion of people with hepatitis C have an episode of OST of sufficient duration to complete HCV antiviral therapy?
- What are their characteristics?

Method

- Data linkage, New South Wales, Australia
- HCV notifications (1993-2012) linked to OST and other health data
- 16 continuous weeks of OST minimum suitable to complete a 12 week course of HCV therapy
Among 96,888 people with an anti-HCV+ notification:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (%) male</td>
<td>60,661 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age at notification</td>
<td>35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any OST after notification</td>
<td>25,592 (26)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among 25,592 people with an anti-HCV+ notification and post-notification OST

- No sex difference in OST after notification
- People with OST after HCV notification were younger at notification (30 years vs 38 years)
- Median duration of OST: 24 weeks
Among those who sought OST, most had more than 16 consecutive weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of those with OST after notification</th>
<th>% of total HCV cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥16 weeks OST</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥16 weeks OST in 2013</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Targeting HCV therapy to OST settings will contribute to reducing disease burden

- Will reach a somewhat younger group
  - Less advanced disease
  - More likely to still be injecting and sharing injecting equipment

- Need to consider other strategies for people who no longer inject / not engaged with services for people who inject drugs
Conclusions

• Around 12% of people with hepatitis C may be accessible in opioid treatment settings in NSW

• Denominator is people who have been tested (i.e. not including undiagnosed infections)
  • Probably still at least 10%

• Need to understand disease stage of people in contact (and not) with OST system

s.larney@unsw.edu.au

@SarahLarney