

QUIHN TREATMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: AN EVOLVING HCV TREATMENT MODEL FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS - A COMMUNITY PRESCRIBING MODEL IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

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Introduction: Queensland Injectors Health Network is a unique Queensland non-government organisation whose primary intent is the promotion of the health and wellbeing of people whom inject drugs (PWID). In 2014, QuiHN established a Treatment Management Program which includes the Treatment in Injecting Drug Environment (TIDE) Project for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in PWID. This model is informed by the treatment as prevention framework and will rely on respondent driven sampling (RDS) as a key recruitment strategy for hidden populations of PWID. This discussion will focus on the TIDE project progress since the availability of and access to second generation DAAs.

Methods: TIDE is being systematically rolled out, including the establishment of an Expert Advisory Panel, the development of tools and clinical systems for assessment and treatment of clients for treatment, and establishing a case management team and 3-teired case management support model. Phase two commenced with the PBS listing of DAAs and the treatment of patients whom were treatment prepared and expectant. Whilst continuing to meet the demand of this existing group of clients, the TIDE project is now expanding to community based Nurse Practitioner and nurse-supported outreach clinics.

Results: Outcomes of the project include the development of a two-way communication system with tertiary settings for the most appropriate timely treatment access for clients, a suite of screening and assessment procedures for community based prescribing, and an opportunity to increase testing and treatment options for clients who may not access current treatment facilities. Other outcomes will be discussed in the presentation.

Conclusion: The TIDE project has evolved and adapted to accommodate the demand of this cohort of clients in need. Key learnings from the project highlight the need for flexibility, creativity, collaboration and spontaneity, whilst supporting the client through treatment as the centre focus of the project.

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