

P08.26 THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON AUSTRALIAN PRACTICE NURSES' KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES IN RELATION TO CHLAMYDIA TESTING: FINDINGS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CHLAMYDIA CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS PILOT (ACCEPT)

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Introduction ACCEPt is a randomised controlled trial of annual chlamydia testing for 16–29 year olds in general practice. Part of the trial examines whether practice nurses (PNs) can play a role in chlamydia testing. PNs previously identified education as an important facilitator to their involvement in testing. We evaluated the impact of education on PNs' knowledge and attitudes in relation to chlamydia testing.

Methods The 2-hour education program was delivered at clinics to PNs by ACCEPt staff. A survey was conducted at baseline and repeated 6–12 months post education; analysis focused on PNs who completed both surveys. The survey used Likert scales, which were analysed as continuous variables (scores). We used t-tests to assess if changes in mean scores between survey rounds were greater in the education group.

Results In total 72 PNs completed both surveys (42 of which received education). Changes in mean scores between survey rounds in the education group were significantly different to the non-education group for the statements: most chlamydia infections in men are asymptomatic ($p = 0.01$); I would offer a chlamydia test to a 23-year old married female having a pap test ($p = 0.04$); I would like to be more involved in testing ($p = 0.04$); I would like to be more involved with managing a recall/reminder system ($p = 0.05$); and time/workload constraints are barriers to testing ($p = 0.001$). The increases in mean knowledge score ($p < 0.01$) and mean barrier score ($p = 0.03$) were greater in education group.

Conclusion Our evaluation suggests PN participation in the ACCEPt education program improved chlamydia testing knowledge and attitudes among PNs and could be utilised more widely across primary care. The findings also suggest time/workload constraints became a stronger barrier after education, presumably due to greater involvement in testing. Future analyses will determine if the education program combined with other initiatives have increased testing rates.

Disclosure of interest statement ACCEPt was commissioned and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Additional funding has been received from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Victorian Department of Health and NSW Health.

P08.27 RESULTS OF A 2014 QLD TRIAL OF PHARMACY ACCESSED TESTING FOR CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS VIA RETAIL SELF-TEST URI SWAB POSTAL SPECIMEN KITS

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Background Chlamydia is the most common Sexually Transmissible Infection in Australia, with 23,535 notifications for the first quarter of 2015, more than half of which occurring in the 15 to 25 age group. More than 80% of this high risk age group presenting to a general practice at least once annually, however rates of testing are low at 12.5% for females and 3.7% for males. International and Australian studies have suggested pharmacy involvement in testing. Piloting access through Australia's 5,450 pharmacies is essential to reduce the incidence and long-term consequences of chlamydia through early detection, treatment of asymptomatic infection and contact tracing.

Method A 9-month pilot of a retail self-test kit through 18 community pharmacies in the Brisbane Metro North region of Queensland. Each kit contained a uri swab, instructions, reply post envelope, pathology bag and form, and information on chlamydia. The consumer indicated preferred option for return of results.

Results Of 109 kits purchased, 39.4% were returned for processing, with 16.3% of these returning a reactive result. 18% of returned samples were purchased by consumers under the age of 18, 53.5% between 18 – 29 year and the remainder aged over 30 years. All reactive results were subsequently treated.

Conclusion This presentation will discuss integrating community pharmacy into any comprehensive Australian chlamydia testing program. Pharmacies are already providers of sexual health products, including contraception, pregnancy tests and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), where approximately 400,000 units of EHC provided each year. They are well placed for access to Chlamydia testing over extended hours, providing an additional confidential option access Chlamydia testing with the capacity to increase sexual health awareness and de-stigmatise chlamydia screening.

Disclosure of interest statement This pilot was a collaboration of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia QLD Branch and Metro North Hospital and Health Service, funded by Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local.

P08.28 PATIENTS CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN BEING TESTED FOR CHLAMYDIA AND RECEIVING TEST RESULT AND TREATMENT

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