Background We implemented a facility-based intervention aimed at reducing the proportion of patients lost to follow-up at an outpatient HIV clinic in Jinja district, Eastern Uganda, over a period of 6 months (February-July 2012).

Methods The intervention was implemented with the aim of decreasing the proportion of patients lost to follow-up from 1% (23/2328) at baseline to 0.25% by July 2012. Simple and innovative strategies were introduced into the HIV clinic. These included retraining of clinic staffs on the importance of patients keeping their appointments; development of new messages on keeping appointments; retrieving patient files a day before the day of appointment; sending two text message reminders a day to the clinic; and actively following up patients who had not kept their appointments through home-visiting. At each follow-up visit, reasons for the patients’ failure to keep appointment were noted and information on age, gender, CD4 count (captured from patient records) and duration in HIV care was obtained. Data were fed into an IQ Care programme and analysed using Microsoft Excel.

Results The proportion of patients lost to follow-up decreased from 1% (23/2328) at baseline to 0.4% (9/2328) in 6 months. Men, those with a CD4 > 350, those aged < 30 years and those in care for < 1 year had the biggest decline in proportion of patients lost to follow-up compared to other patients.

Conclusion The proportion of patients lost to follow-up declined by 60% through use of simple and innovative strategies introduced in the HIV clinic.

P6.059 UNIVERSAL HIV SCREENING OF INMATES IN ISRAELI PRISONS: SHOULD THE POLICY BE UPDATED?


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Background HIV rates among inmates are mostly higher than the general population. Israel is a relative low-HIV prevalence country (107/100,000 population, 2011 data). All criminal inmates incarcerated in prisons/gaols at the Israeli Prison Services (IPS) are routinely tested on entry. Inmates are notified of their HIV status on a confidential basis. We aimed to determine the proportion of inmates who were HIV-infected and the outcomes of their HIV infection.

Methods We reviewed all inmates diagnosed with HIV/AIDS upon incarceration in Israel between 2003 and 2010, and assessed their risk-behaviours and the date of diagnosis.

Results During the 8 years follow-up, 108,866 new criminal inmates were incarcerated in 31 correctional facilities, and it is estimated that 95% of those were tested for HIV. Of those, 201 (0.2%) were tested positively with HIV, in a direct testing cost of 622,000 (US$).

Of all 201 HIV-infected inmates, 118 (58.7%) were intra-venous drug-users (IVDU), 55 (27.4%) originated in high-prevalence countries, 13 (6.5%) were men who have sex with men (MSM), 12 (6.0%) were heterosexuals not originating in endemic country, 2 (0.1%) the risk-group was undetermined and one (0.5%) was infected vertically.

Of all 201 HIV-infected inmates, 157 (78.2%) were diagnosed in the community, prior to their imprisonment, and were re-tested in prison; while 44 (21.8%) were firstly diagnosed in prison. Of those 44 inmates, 25 (56.8%) were IVDU, 13 (29.5%) originated in endemic country, three (9.1%) were MSM and in two (4.5%) the risk-group was not determined.

Conclusion HIV-infection rate is twice higher than the general population. The majority (98.5%) of all inmates was diagnosed prior to their incarceration or had a key risk-behaviour exposing them to HIV. Therefore, questioning each new inmate upon incarceration about previous HIV-diagnosis, and targeted testing for other inmates who are IVDU, MSM or originating in endemic countries for HIV can detect almost all HIV-infected prisoners, presuming they respond reliably.

P6.060 PATIENT OR PROVIDER REFERRAL FOR CHLAMYDIA - WHAT IS THE COST AND IS IT WORTH IT? A COST COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES


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Background Partner notification (PN) is an essential element of STI control. Typically partner notification has been supported by specialist health advisors based in GUM clinics, but recently the role has been extended to community based Chlamydia screening officers (including primary care). We aimed to explore and compare costs of various approaches to EN for Chlamydia in different settings.

Methods We compared costs of being offered one of five approaches to partner notification from the health service perspective:

1. Routine specialist clinic PN (patient referral including infection specific information, and advice that the sex partner should attend clinic for testing and treatment)
2. Accelerated Partner Therapy (APT Hotline): nurse initiated PN at the general practice followed by telephone assessment of sex partner by clinic-based nurse qualified health adviser;
Background Between 2007 and 2012, there was an increase of 14% of Specialized Care Services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), totaling 724. A decade ago the Qualiaids evaluates the quality of outpatient care in public services in Brazil. The aim of this study is to describe the dimensions of this evaluation method, the highlights of care services and its importance in monitoring the quality of care for PLHIV.

Methods We made three national applications: one manual and two online through a questionnaire completed by the services. Each question has a score, and there were grouped under three components: availability of services inputs, organisation of care delivery and managerial aspects. To rank the services Were used the average obtained in the questions and then were grouped by technique of K-mean. The analysis resulted in the layering of five groups in decreasing levels of quality. The online tool also released a set of recommendations for good practices in order to elucidate the quality criteria that support the score of each question.

Results Qualiaids covered 80% of the services in 2007 and 90% in 2010. Increased the overall average and the three dimensions of quality, with statistical significance for most of them. The size of management remains the dimension with the lowest quality rating. The great majority of responses to the questionnaire QUALIAIDS was maintained in similar frequencies (variations less than 10%) among the respondents of the two sets of ratings.

Conclusion From the self-assessment were planned the feedback workshops to improving the quality to knowing the difficulties and systematising the priorities for the development of an action plan customised for each service. This process favoured the implementation of agreements and pacts that allowed monitoring of quality indicators and subsidised practises to improve the quality of care services.

Poster presentations

P6.061 DEVELOPMENT OF A VALIDATED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HIV ATTENDEES


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Background Patients are becoming more actively involved in decisions about their care and have greater influence to change and improve the quality of services by reporting their experiences. Within HIV services, positive experiences increase engagement with services and have been linked to higher levels of treatment adherence. A previous systematic review assessing satisfaction with care failed to locate any systematic analysis of previous patient survey tools, focus group discussions and cognitive testing of the questionnaire and supported good criterion validity. The combination of a systematic analysis of previous patient survey tools, focus group discussions and cognitive testing of the questionnaire was used to ensure high content validity. The questionnaire was found to be acceptable to patients and a high completion rate was attained without the use of a financial incentive.

Methods Four work streams were employed to develop and test a new questionnaire. Firstly, key themes identified in the systematic review were used as a topic guide for focus group discussion to assess their relevance and importance. Four focus groups comprising 32 participants were conducted and revealed the importance of physician knowledge and expertise, dignity, autonomy and respect; and good communication. The second stream involved interviews with ten patients, exploring their motivation to complete a questionnaire. Thirdly, data from the focus groups and interviews were used to develop an initial questionnaire which was cognitively tested on a further ten patients, this provided face validity for the questionnaire design, layout and wording. The final stream employed a pilot study of the questionnaire with 80 clinic attendees.

Results The pilot survey demonstrated that there was a high completion rate. Two questions were modified and additional routing instructions were added. Pairwise correlations reflected the thematic structure of the questionnaire and supported good criterion validity.

Conclusions The combination of a systematic analysis of previous patient survey tools, focus group discussions and cognitive testing of the questionnaire was used to ensure high content validity. The questionnaire was found to be acceptable to patients and a high completion rate was attained without the use of a financial incentive.

P6.062 QUALIAIDS: QUALITY OF AMBULATORY HEALTH SERVICES WHO ATTEND PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN BRAZIL


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Background Between 2007 and 2012, there was an increase of 14% of Specialized Care Services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), totaling 724. A decade ago the Qualiaids evaluates the quality of outpatient care in public services in Brazil. The aim of this study is to describe the dimensions of this evaluation method, the highlights of care services and its importance in monitoring the quality of care for PLHIV.

Methods We made three national applications: one manual and two online through a questionnaire completed by the services. Each question has a score, and there were grouped under three components: availability of services inputs, organisation of care delivery and managerial aspects. To rank the services Were used the average obtained in the questions and then were grouped by technique of K-mean. The analysis resulted in the layering of five groups in decreasing levels of quality. The online tool also released a set of recommendations for good practices in order to elucidate the quality criteria that support the score of each question.

Results Qualiaids covered 80% of the services in 2007 and 90% in 2010. Increased the overall average and the three dimensions of quality, with statistical significance for most of them. The size of management remains the dimension with the lowest quality rating. The great majority of responses to the questionnaire QUALIAIDS was maintained in similar frequencies (variations less than 10%) among the respondents of the two sets of ratings.

Conclusion From the self-assessment were planned the feedback workshops to improving the quality to knowing the difficulties and systematising the priorities for the development of an action plan customised for each service. This process favoured the implementation of agreements and pacts that allowed monitoring of quality indicators and subsidised practises to improve the quality of care services.