**P436** BARRIERS TO ADHERENCE TO HIV TREATMENT AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH ENROLLED IN ARV IN TWO DISTRICT HOSPITALS IN RURAL RWANDA

1Naome Nyirahabimana, 2Jean D’Amour Ndahimana, 3Jesua Logan, 4Fredrick Kateera, 5Rex Wong, 6Partners in Health/Inshuti mu Buzima (Rwanda), Research, Kigali, Rwanda; 7University of Global Health Equity, Kigali, Rwanda

10.1136/sextrans-2019-sti.522

**Background** Rwanda provides free HIV treatment to all HIV positive person. Adolescents and youth have poorer treatment adherence and experience higher treatment failure than adults. This study aimed at exploring the barriers to adherence among adolescents and youth in two district hospitals in rural Rwanda.

**Methods** Adolescents and youth within the age of 10 to 24 years who have been on HIV treatment for at least one year in the two hospitals and their appointment adherence were identified through electronic medical records. Questionnaires were completed by consented participants or their parents and were used to measure treatment adherence in the previous 30 days and in the previous 3 days. In-depth interviews were also conducted to explore the factors associated with poor adherence and outcomes.

**Results** Among the 139 adolescents enrolled for treatment, 58% had good appointment keeping. Out of the 72 questionnaires completed, 87% reported adhering to at least 95% of treatment in the previous 30 days and 47% reported poor adherence in the previous 3 days. Reported factors causing poor adherence included poverty, stigma, and lack of parents.

**Conclusion** The level of adherence to HIV treatment was low among adolescents and youth in rural Rwanda. Creation of projects that can improve social economic status to Adolescent who are on HIV treatment as well as provision of family care to orphanage HIV adolescents patients would improve their treatment adherence.

**Disclosure** No significant relationships.

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**P438** GAY, BISEXUAL AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN PREFER SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC NURSES OVER FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOR PREP DELIVERY

1Darrell Tan, 2Allison Chris, 3Alexandre Schnubb, 4David Knox, 5James Wilton, 6Rita Shahin, 7Arlene Chan, 8Sharmistha Mishra, 9Daniel Grace, 10Tim Rogers, 11Ahmed Bayoumi, 12Darrell Tan, 13Allison Chris, 14Alexandre Schnubb, 15David Knox, 16James Wilton, 17Rita Shahin, 18Arlene Chan, 19Sharmistha Mishra, 20Daniel Grace, 21Tim Rogers, 22Ahmed Bayoumi

10.1136/sextrans-2019-sti.523

**Background** Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective in preventing HIV infection, but many at-risk patients have difficulty adhering to the drug over time. Past studies suggest that financial factors, including health insurance coverage, high out-of-pocket expenses, and more general financial strain, may be key factors in PrEP care utilization particularly in the United States, where PrEP is not covered by all insurance plans. However, to date, few studies have explored whether these factors co-occur with disruptions in adherence that are long enough to reduce PrEP’s effectiveness.

**Methods** We recruited 40 PrEP-experienced patients from a sexual health clinic in the northeastern US and instructed them to dispense their PrEP from an internet-connected pill bottle over a 6-month study period. During the study period, participants were also asked to complete monthly surveys assessing insurance coverage, type, and financial strain.

**Results** GEE models showed that the odds of having a lapse in PrEP adherence of 3+ days were also nearly three times higher in months when participants had incomplete insurance coverage (OR=2.94, p<0.001) and the rate of lapse days was five times higher (IRR=5.00, p < 0.001). Participants also had significantly higher percent adherent days (β=0.23, p=0.003) and lapse days occurred nearly four times less often to gbMSM considering PrEP. Men used the cards to view an online module and meet with their FPs, who could use the card to complete an accredited e-module about PrEP. Strategy B was an implementation intervention in which gbMSM could instead access PrEP from sexual health RNs. Participants completed an optional survey at baseline and 6 months. We used descriptive statistics to characterize the sample and logistic regression to identify characteristics associated with intentions to seek PrEP from FPs vs RNs.

**Results** From 3013 cards distributed, 339 men accessed the module; 179 completed the baseline survey and are included in this analysis. Median (IQR) age was 31 (26,40) years, 97.7% were cisgender males and 46.4% had a prior bacterial STI. Most (n=119, 66.5%) had a FP, of which only 59.5% were ‘out’ to them. Of 97 respondents with a FP and wanting to start PrEP, 35.1% vs 65.0% intended to use Strategy A vs B respectively (p=0.003). In univariable analyses, characteristics associated with intent to approach FPs included being ‘out’ to that doctor (OR=10.67, 95%CI=3.35, 33.96), very good/excellent physician skills in general communication (OR=3.42, 95%CI=1.38, 8.48) and participatory decision-making (OR=3.33, 95%CI=1.14, 9.79). In multivariable analysis, being ‘out’ was the only significant predictor (aOR=14.35, 95%CI=1.59, 129.83).

**Conclusion** Among gbMSM with a FP, sexual health clinic RNs were preferred over FPs for PrEP by most. Multiple strategies are needed to increase numbers of PrEP providers, including interventions to help gbMSM feel comfortable disclosing sexual orientation.

**Disclosure** No significant relationships.