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Poster Exhibition

Track C - Integrating HIV prevention and care and treatment programmes

THPE0547 - Piloting public health programme in a HIV clinic to target positives for prevention

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Issues: Prevention targeting HIV-positive is vital to disease control and clinical setting offers a platform for the work. Since 2006, we have piloted the idea of incorporating public health functions into daily clinical HIV care.

Description: Our Public Health Programme targeting HIV positive comprises of three components:

- (a) risk reduction on sex / injecting drug use,
- (b) provision of partner counselling and referral services (PCRS), and
- (c) enhancement of HAART adherence.

Each component contains two core activities:

- (a) performing assessment; and
- (b) provision of tailor-made health counselling.

In phases, we integrated these components and activities with the regular health counselling conducted by nurse counsellors. One year after its implementation, the coverage of risk reduction assessment and counselling on:

- (a) prevention of sexual transmission among all patients was 96%; and
- (b) prevention of needle-sharing transmission among drug users was 92%.

The coverage of PCRS:

- (a) to new patients in first six months of their attendance was 86%; and
- (b) to old patients having unprotected sex was 97%.

Regarding HAART adherence, 90% of treated patients were assessed and 97% of them have a 95% or above adherence rate. The virological failure rate was 8%. No patient refused to participate or had bad feelings towards these public health activities.

Lessons learned: It is workable to incorporate public health functions in clinical care. This initiative is supported by nurses and patients. Nurses perceive gains when they have expanded their public health role. Nevertheless, it is essential to make a good balance between care and prevention of which human asset is the most crucial element.

Next steps: The Public Health Programme targeting positive for prevention would be regularized and become an ongoing programme of the clinic. On top of feasibility and acceptability, further evaluation on the effect of the programme would be carried out.

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