

Integrating Pharmacist/Physician collaborative therapy with telehealth in the management of the rural HIV patient

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: This presentation is geared towards providers, administrators, and policy makers in rural areas who may manage HIV-positive patients or who are in roles to engage in HIV prevention. The goal of this presentation is to educate these professionals on the role of the HIV Clinical Pharmacist and telehealth in supplementing their programs to prevent and treat HIV.

ABSTRACT: HIV patients in rural areas face many barriers to optimal care. They often have limited financial means, face long trips to see their specialists, and have primary care providers who aren't comfortable or current with treating HIV. A pharmacist/physician collaborative therapy protocol combined with telehealth brings HIV expert consultative services to both the provider and the patient. HIV Alliance applied for and was awarded a Strategic Innovation Model (SIM) grant through the Oregon Office of Rural Health. Our HIV specialist clinical pharmacist signed a collaborative practice agreement with a federally qualified health center to act as both a consultant and provider for HIV patients seen in that clinic. With this agreement in place, the pharmacist was authorized to order and interpret labs, as well as prescribe new medications and make changes to existing prescriptions. Through our project and others, we have demonstrated that these collaborative services can meet or exceed the standard of care for rural HIV patients. Patients felt the telehealth technology was easy to use and put them more in touch with their health care team. Both HIV labs and clinical comorbidity markers improved for patients followed by the clinical pharmacist.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Define a pharmacist/physician collaborative drug therapy agreement.
- Name at least one common comorbid disease state that interacts with HIV medication and is frequently managed by rural primary care providers.
- Explain how an HIV specialist pharmacist may supplement the care of the rural HIV patient.

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