

Pharmacist/Physician collaborative therapy for the prevention of HIV in at-risk rural patients

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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: Primary prevention is the optimal strategy in preventing any chronic disease state. Rural primary care providers counsel their patients on risk reduction techniques, but may not be comfortable or competent in identifying candidates and prescribing Truvada for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). A pharmacist/physician drug therapy agreement with an HIV specialist pharmacist could be a solution to stem the tide of new HIV infections in rural areas. Rural providers could refer patients to the HIV specialist pharmacist who can meet with the patient in person or via telehealth to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment. If the patient is deemed to be a candidate for PrEP, the pharmacist may order the HIV test and other laboratory tests required for PrEP, and prescribe Truvada through the collaborative drug therapy agreement. Studies have shown that adherence to antiretroviral therapy for both HIV treatment and prevention improves outcomes. More studies have shown that medication management by a clinical pharmacist significantly improves adherence. For the primary care provider managing rural or underserved patients, this model allows them to engage their patients in comprehensive HIV risk reduction without sacrificing valuable time and energy that could go towards seeing more patients in clinic.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Define a pharmacist/physician collaborative drug therapy agreement.
- Name the combination tablet used for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Define the frequency of HIV testing for patients using HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

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