

The transition from hospital-based care for stable HIV-positive (HIV+) patients in Ottawa

Kendall C^{1,2}, MacPherson P^{1,3,4}, Valela N^{1,4}, Liddy C^{1,2,4,5}

¹University of Ottawa, ²CT Lamont Primary Health Care Research Centre, ³Élisabeth Bruyère Research Institute at Health, ⁴The Ottawa Hospital, ⁵Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, ⁶Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team.

Background

- HIV care has changed greatly with the advent of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART)
- Most people living with HIV receiving care in Ottawa have fully suppressed HIV infection and healthy immune systems, placing less importance on routine biannual specialist visits
- Traditional HIV care may leave substantive gaps in HIV patients' primary and preventative health care needs
- People living with HIV on stable cART deserve the same routine primary care available to the general population, with additional emphasis on cardiovascular risk factors, mental and sexual healthcare needs
- People living with HIV would benefit from greater involvement of primary care providers

Objectives

This demonstration project aims to:

- Support primary care providers by ensuring access to specialist expertise
- Reduce avoidable referrals
- Enhance communication between healthcare providers involved in the care of people living with HIV
- Divert primary care management from infectious specialists, thus reducing wait times
- Improve overall healthcare of HIV+ patients
- Improve patient experience through the delivery of culturally sensitive care

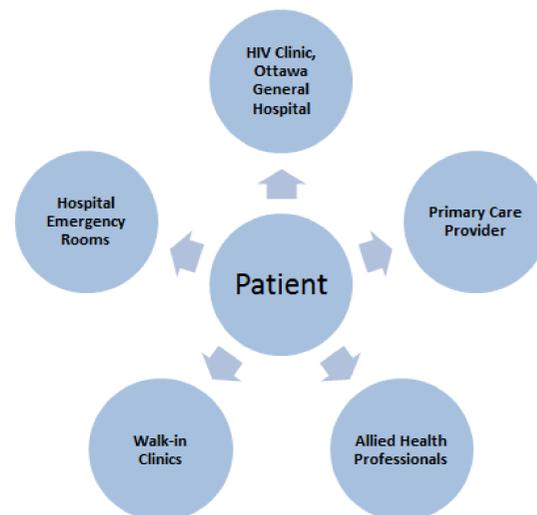
Champlain BASE eConsult Service

The Champlain BASE (Building Access to Specialists through eConsultation) service is a secure, web-based tool that allows primary care providers (PCPs) quick access to specialist care for their patients. 496 primary care providers across Ontario use the service, providing access to 50 specialty services. It is an ongoing service within the Champlain health region.

[†]Building Access to Specialists through eConsultation

Program Description

Current HIV Care Model



This project aims to transition stable HIV+ patients to PCPs (MD or NP) in five community-based primary care practices across Ottawa. If the patient is uncomfortable receiving care from their PCP and/or their PCP does not wish to provide HIV primary care, the patient will be transitioned to the care of a PCP prepared to do so. These providers will be identified based on their knowledge of HIV primary care.

Transition of care will be supported by:

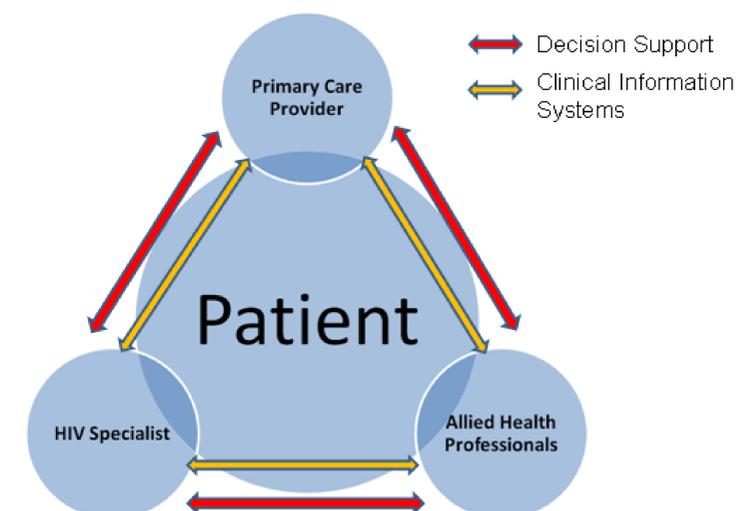
1. Implementation of eConsult, an established web-based consultation system that will enhance communication and rapid access to consultative expertise
2. Focused provider education training in HIV care.
3. Dissemination of support materials, including primary care and immunization guidelines for HIV+ patients.

Evaluation and Anticipated Impact

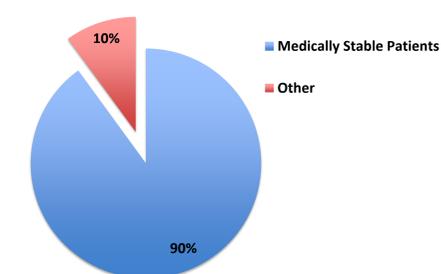
Evaluation: We will quantitatively measure impact on healthcare utilization, including ambulatory care visits, primary care visits, ED visits, and hospitalizations, as well as per capita costs of care. We will qualitatively measure impact from the patients' perspective in terms of indirect costs, such as distance traveled, time off work, parking, and caregiver costs.

Anticipated Impact: Project results will inform the development of subsequent programs to better serve HIV+ populations.

Proposed HIV Care Model



Estimated Number of HIV Patients followed at The Ottawa Hospital, General Campus 2014



The HIV Clinic at the Ottawa Hospital is the primary referral centre in Eastern Ontario.

Approximately 1,200 patients are currently followed.

An estimated 90% are on stable therapy and could be transitioned to a primary care provider for routine care.

Acknowledgements

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care of Ontario; Ontario Medical Association

