**Hepatitis C: The Basics**
Community informed education for hepatitis C care engagement

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### AIM
Address key hepatitis C patient & provider knowledge gaps across the illness and care journey to encourage care engagement.

### BACKGROUND
- **Hepatitis C** is a curable chronic infectious disease & targeted for elimination by 2030 [1]
- Patient/provider knowledge gaps, poor communication & stigma discourage engagement with hepatitis C care, increase morbidity/mortality & present obstacles to elimination [2, 3]

### INTERVENTION
A collaborative national project (including people affected by hepatitis C & service providers) created **Hepatitis C: The Basics** [4], an online course that addresses known knowledge gaps [2]. Partners required course to be:

- **Accessible**: narrated, easy to understand, non-stigmatizing
- **Effective**: Include pre & post-course tests, learning modules (e.g., basic facts, how it’s spread, testing, treatment) & evaluation survey

**Two formats:**
1. **Online**: individual, self-paced course completion without a facilitator
2. **Facilitated Group**: in-person course presentation & evaluation

**Outcome measures:**
- Actual knowledge gains (pre/post tests)
- Perceived knowledge gains
- (provider only) self-reported capacity increase to educate clients & encourage engagement in hepatitis C care

### RESULTS [5]
511 total course participants
- 413 matched on pre- & post-course data
  - 286 from **Online Group** (mostly providers)
  - 127 from **Facilitated Group** (mostly patients or those at-risk)

2 time periods:
- **Time 1** = 8/31/2014 - 5/5/2016 with 6 pre/post questions
- **Time 2** = 11/5/2016 - 12/31/2016 10 pre/post (4 new questions)

### RESULTS Continued
**Pre- and post-test total scores increased significantly**

**Largest knowledge gains by question – Online:**
- **Time 1 Q3** – pre = 34.1% ; post = 92.9%
- **Q3**: What test tells if a person has a current hepatitis C infection?
- **Time 2 Q10** – pre = 36.3% ; post = 99.5%
- **Q10**: Which of the following could cause liver damage when taken alone or with prescribed medicine?

**Largest knowledge gains by question – Facilitated:**
- **Time 1 Q1** – pre-test = 39.5%; Post-test = 86.8%
- **Q1**: Is there a vaccine to prevent hepatitis C?
- **Time 2 Question 5** – Pre-test = 50.6%; Post-test = 92.1%
- **Q5**: If someone is living with hepatitis C, how often should they see a provider?

### KEY FINDINGS
**Hepatitis C: The Basics significantly increased:**
- hepatitis C actual & perceived knowledge
- provider capacity to educate/engage clients

**Main knowledge gaps:**
- tests used to diagnose an active hepatitis C infection
- how often those living with hepatitis C should see their provider; if there is a vaccine

The course is a non-stigmatizing, acceptable, adaptable, cost-effective way to address key patient/provider knowledge gaps in both formats.

**Future Directions:**
Follow up surveys needed to assess longer term behavioural & practice impacts of course content & formats

### Acknowledgements

### References
[4] Access Hepatitis C: The Basics at hepatitiseducation.ca/resources or learninghub.phsa.ca/course/search