

Moving Towards Hep C-Free BC: Models of Care for Hepatitis in BC

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HIV & HEP C INTERVENTION PROJECT

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THE NEED OF PROGRAM...

- Higher Prevalence rate of hepatitis in South Asian countries.
- No Screening tests for hepatitis C before coming to Canada.
- Need for hepatitis testing among South Asian immigrants.
- PICS as a community organization has the capacity to meet the requirement for hepatitis C virus elimination.



MODEL OF CARE

Global targets

- WHO targets for global elimination of hepatitis C by 2030.
- Need of education to raise the awareness of hepatitis c transmission

South Asian Community

- Not only limited to Punjabi speaking but also includes Urdu, Pashto, and Hindi speaking population.



MODEL OF CARE... CONTINUED

Services :

- Providing health education workshops
- Facilitating point of care testing

Key population:

- Community workers: training presentation in English language
- South Asian community, educational presentation in their own language



WORKSHOP & ON SPOT TESTING



South Asian immigrants receiving free, point of care testing



WORKSHOP ON HEP C & HIV



Youth Group



Middle Eastern Immigrants



FROM THE CONTENT OF OUR WORKSHOPS

SYMPTOMS OF ACUTE HEPATITIS C INFECTION



This is the acute infection phase and can last from six to eight weeks, or longer.

- abdominal pain
- fatigue
- Yellow skin or eyes
- dark-urine
- reduced appetite
- nausea

How do I get hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is spread through blood-to-blood contact, which means that to contract hepatitis C, blood infected with the hepatitis C virus must get into your bloodstream

HIGH RISK

YOU HAVE A HIGH RISK OF CONTRACTING HEPATITIS C IF YOU:

- Use or have used injection drugs; even if it was just once or many years ago
- Needle-stick injuries, and blood-related accidents
- Sharing drug snorting or injection equipment such as needles and syringes
- Received a blood transfusion in a country where hepatitis C is common



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LOWER RISK

THE RISK IS MUCH LOWER INCLUDE:

- Sharing personal items which could have tiny amounts of blood on them
- Sexual intercourse
- Skin-piercing procedures if the equipment is not sterile
- An infected mother passing it to her newborn infant.



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NO RISK

HEPATITIS C IS NOT KNOWN TO BE SPREAD BY:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Friendly contact such as hugging and kissing
- Using the same dishes or cutlery
- Swimming in a treated pool when you have cuts, scrapes or are menstruating
- Being bitten or stung by an insect which then bites or stings someone else
- Skin contact by others with your body fluids (such as saliva, urine, faeces or vomit)



FROM THE CONTENT OF OUR WORKSHOPS

ਰੈਪੋਟਾਈਟਿਸ ਸੀ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੀਆਂ ਚੀਜ਼ਾਂ ਨਾਲ
ਨਹੀਂ ਫੈਲਦਾ:



ਪਾਣੀ



ਭਾਂਡੇ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਕਰਨੇ



ਭੋਜਨ



ਖੰਘਣਾ



ਗਲਵਕਤੀ



ਕੱਪੜੇ



ਚੁੰਮਣਾ



ਟੌਇਲੈਟ ਦਾ ਇਸਤੇਮਾਲ



THE CHALLENGES

- Culturally sensitive issue of stigma/discrimination
- Participants' availability; competing priorities



SUCSESSES

- We have only found one positive hep C case out of more than 200 people who screened for hep C virus.
- Stigma with hepatitis C and HIV has remarkably reduced.
- After presentation, the workshop attendees voluntarily proceed to get tested.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- To continue our role in hepatitis c prevention through education.
- To share our model of HIV and hep C education with other community-based organizations to work toward hep C virus elimination.
- To integrate our services with the provincial healthcare system for better outcomes.



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Thank You

