**Hepatitis C: The Basics – An online course to address patient and provider knowledge gaps**

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**Background**

- Increasing linkage and retention in care along the HCV Illness and Care Journey (HCV ICJ) can decrease HCV-related morbidity and mortality[1]
- Existing knowledge gaps/barriers, which contribute to low HCV ICJ engagement, may be compounded by emerging knowledge gaps arising from rapid changes in HCV care (e.g., new drugs, evolving screening guidelines, laboratory testing and primary care involvement)[2]
- Efficient, timely and easy-to-implement/update courses are needed to address gaps/barriers and to foster engagement along the HCV ICJ

**Methods**

Hepatitis C: The Basics - free online course for patients/providers [3]:
- Narrated, non-stigmatizing, low literacy
- Pre-test, learning modules (e.g., basic facts about hepatitis C, how it is spread/not spread, testing, treatment), post-test, evaluation

**Evaluation groups & participants:**
- 4 groups: 2 Online (individual, online access, no facilitation) & 2 Facilitated (in-person, group presentations); 2 time periods (T1 and T2; see Table 1)
- Online groups were mainly providers (85% of T1 & 99% of T2); Facilitated Groups, mainly public/at-risk of HCV (63% of T1 & 62% of T2)
- Independent of our project, 58% of T2 online participants received 1 hour of in-clinic HCV training from their organization before taking the course.

**Outcome measures:**
- Actual knowledge gains (pre & post-course tests); perceived knowledge gains; self-reported increased capacity of providers to educate clients about HCV and encourage engagement in HCV care

**Results**

**Table 2: Total Pre-Post Test Scores (mean percent correct)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Pre-test (%)</th>
<th>Post-test (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1 Online</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1 Facilitated</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2 Online</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2 Facilitated</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings**

- **Hepatitis C: The Basics** significantly increased actual HCV knowledge for T1/T2 Online (mainly providers) and T1/T2 facilitated groups (mainly public).
- Even though 58% of T2 Online participants received one hour of HCV education prior to taking our course, knowledge gains for this sub-group were significant (<p.01) for 7 of the 10 pre/post-test questions.
- Key knowledge gaps (two lowest pre-test scores) for both groups included: tests used to diagnose a current infection and which over-the-counter drugs (OTC) or supplements can cause liver damage.

**Acknowledgements**


[3] Visit: hepatitiseducation.ca/resources for more info or scan →