Overview of Albany Medical Center’s PrEP Program

Shona Ruggeri
PrEP Coordinator
Designated AIDS Center
Patient population on PrEP at AMC

- 82 patients currently enrolled on PrEP in Albany and Kingston Clinics
- 16 patients pending enrollment
- 80% of male patients are white
- 12% of males are black/other race
- 63% of female patients are white

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 50</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>73</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
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Unique characteristics of the population

- 83% MSM, 15% heterosexual, 6% bisexual, 4% Transgender Male to Female
- 5 patients have utilized the PrEP-AP with assistance from PrEP Coordinator
- Payer-mix
  - 7 Medicaid
  - 70 Commercial insurance/ACA
Service model

- Clinical education is done on a regular basis with providers in the region.
- AMC has established agreements and ongoing working partnerships with community-based organizations focused on identifying and referring individuals to the PrEP program.
  - MOUs in place with many community agencies
Service model continued…

- AMC has designated clinics for PrEP
- All providers are now seeing PrEP patients
- Patients need to be seen by a provider in order to receive medication, per AI guidelines
- AMC has a designated PrEP coordinator
  - Screening, testing, referrals, follow-up, case management, community education and outreach
  - AIRS entry
Funding for PrEP

- AIDS Institute funds PrEP coordinator position only
- Clinical staff prescribing, secretaries scheduling and RNs assisting pharmacies are currently non-funded.
  - Funding is necessary to continue maintaining current patients in care, and patients new to the clinic.
  - AMC is 80% RYAN WHITE FUNDED
Services patients receive at each visit

- Adherence counseling is done at each visit with the MD and the PrEP Coordinator.
- Mental health assessments are completed and patients are referred as needed.
- PrEP Coordinator assists all PrEP patients in accessing Primary Care.
- All patients have been asked in their interest of attending a PrEP support group.
  - All have declined
Success

- All patients have remained HIV negative
- AMC is receiving over 5 referrals a week
- Only 7% of patients have discontinued PrEP since starting at AMC
  - 2 moved out of the area
  - 1 changed mind
  - 2 lost to follow-up
  - 1 expired
AMC is a unique program

- The Albany community is small and AMC has had a presence advocating for PrEP at community health fairs, social media, testing events, pride events, colleges and local hospitals.
- AMC collaborates closely with one pharmacy to help with prescription coverage pre-initial visit.
- The PrEP program has patients from the ages of 18-68. No one is turned away.
- HIV providers discuss PrEP with all infected patients as options for partners.
AMC is a unique program

- AMC has free HIV walk-in testing and PrEP is discussed at testing visits.
- AMC’s ER staff have been educated on PrEP and refer patients to the PrEP program who use PEP on a frequent basis.
- AMC is the only PrEP provider in a 10 county area.
Challenges

• Rapidly expanding PrEP program with little funding to assist with staffing needs.
  – Secretaries scheduling visits
  – Lack of dedicated provider time to support increasing rate of PrEP appointments.
  – Increased time to navigate insurance needs of those obtaining PrEP
    • Prescription coverage needs
Challenges continued..

• Much time is spent tracking PrEP patients following appointments to treat STDs.

• Future success of the program relies heavily on staff support to the PrEP Coordinator.