

Community Nursing For PLHIV In South Australia – An Evidence Review

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Background/Purpose:

While the number of new HIV infections is decreasing in South Australia, more people are living with HIV and living longer than ever before. Advances in treatment efficacy, tolerability and access have been highly effective and most people who are diagnosed and start treatment early and continue taking treatment, will live a normal lifespan. For these reasons, the needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in SA are evolving, and consequently, models of HIV care require careful review and refinement to ensure they continue to meet current needs, including community nursing programs.

Approach:

A literature search was conducted using the SA Health Library Service. Very few relevant results were discovered, with the majority of literature relating to programs in developing, high prevalence settings with limited to no relevance to the South Australian context. To supplement the lack of available data, model of care descriptions, reports and unpublished reviews were included. Australian reports and research relating to the current health and needs of PLHIV were searched using Google and Google Scholar and included in the analysis.

Outcomes/Impact:

Key determinants of health and quality of life issues for SA PLHIV emerged as important considerations in this review. For newly diagnosed PLHIV, including those diagnosed late, this includes early access to peer support and treatment initiation; while for long-term survivors and/or those ageing with HIV, financial and social issues emerged as key priorities, as well as very high rates of tobacco use, low uptake of mental health support and lower viral suppression rates than the national average.

Innovation and Significance:

Review findings suggest the current model of care is best practice and contemporary, and continues to meet the increasingly complex needs of PLHIV in South Australia. Opportunities for further improvement are identified.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

There are no conflicts to declare.