

DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTIJURISDICTIONAL ONLINE SYPHILIS TRAINING PACKAGE

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Background/Purpose:

There is currently an outbreak of infectious syphilis predominantly affecting Aboriginal communities in areas of Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA), Queensland and the Northern Territory (NT). Responses to the outbreak are being coordinated at the national, state and local level. One essential component of the response is workforce development. The need to develop an online training package to provide upskilling in relation the syphilis outbreak was highlighted by the Clinician Education Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) which is part of the Enhanced Syphilis Response Unit.

Approach:

Whilst it is a national resource, the development of the training was coordinated and funded by the WA Department of Health. The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) built and host the training package on their Learning Management System (LMS).

The training content was developed based on a syphilis chapter in the *Talk Test Treat Trace: Western Australian Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) & Blood-borne Viruses Manual for Aboriginal Communities*. A comprehensive review of the content was conducted by an editorial sub-group of the Advisory Group. This group consisted of clinicians from all four jurisdictions and the Australian Department of Health to ensure all clinical information was correct.

Outcomes/Impact:

The training package was launched in September 2019. Since then 380 participants have completed the training, of which 52% were from WA. The training has also been incorporated into the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) LMS. A total of 58 participants were WACHS staff from the outbreak regions in WA.

Innovation and Significance:

The online syphilis training package is an important component of the response to the syphilis outbreak and provides accessible workforce development for health professionals in outbreak affected areas.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.