

HOSPITAL ZERO HEPATITIS FOR DRUG USERS : EASY AND USEFUL!

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74000 hepatitis C patients were unknown or not followed in France. Question to be resolved was how to find these missing patients. Mobile hepatitis team, created in July 2013 took care of 504 HCV patients among 83% of current or formers drug users. We made the observation in 2017 that 81% of “new” patients have already been hospitalized in our hospital, specially in emergency units. Hepatitis C was noted in their file as other medical histories like appendicitis or shin fracture! Drug users came one to twelve times per year in hospital for different reasons, but not for hepatitis care. No HCV care was proposed to these patients after other health problem resolution.

Objective:

Objective of our study was to identify HCV patients coming in our hospital by using nurses of every service for a goal of 0 hepatitis hospital.

Methodology:

Our hepatitis specialized nurse did training sessions of nurses in every unit of our hospital about hepatitis screening, diagnosis and treatment. She also taught how to call hepatitis nurse if they had HCV positive patient and gave specific flyers and posters.

Results:

In 7 months, hepatitis nurse did training sessions in 15 units of our hospital, including 85 nurses. We received 20 calls about 18 patients with hepatitis C. Seventeen patients were current or formers drug users, 13 patients are known as negative viral load, spontaneously or after antiviral treatment; 4 had positive viral load and took care by our team; 2 started DAA. All drug users had risk reduction session. We observed rise of phone calls in last 3 months.

Conclusion:

Hospital nurses training was easy to set up and cheap and useful to detect new patients or known patients without medical care, specially drug users. Same project could be done in every hospital.