

Non occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis in an Emergency Department in Sydney; adherence to guidelines and opportunities in the prevention cascade

Authors:

Rick Varma^{1,2}, Viran J³

¹Sydney Sexual Health Centre, South Eastern Sydney LHD, Australia ² The Kirby Institute, University of NSW, Australia, ³ Sydney Eye/Sydney Hospital Emergency Department

Background/Purpose:

Emergency departments are a key provider of Non Occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (NPEP) as specialist sexual health units or GP's may have restrictive operating hours or reduced community awareness. We compared the management of NPEP with Australasian NPEP guidelines in the Sydney Eye /Sydney Hospital emergency department (SHED)

Approach:

This was a retrospective case file review and examination of pharmacy dispensing between July 2018-June 2019. No specific attendance code exists for NPEP presentations in SHED, so a manual review of the presentations listing sexual health related terms to SHED to assess whether a request for NPEP was part of the presentation was undertaken and cross referenced with NPEP dispensing from the hospital pharmacy

Outcomes/Impact:

We screened a total of 254 files and a total of 28 patients were identified, 1 patient did not wait for review. Of the remaining 27 patients (one female), majority were born overseas (20/27 (74%). All presentations took place "after-hours".23/27 (85%) were men who have sex with men (MSM) and all reported condomless anal intercourse (AI) (14/23 (61%) receptive AI) or condom break. Baseline HIV testing took place in 26/27 (96%) however baseline STI testing only in 5/27(19%) and in only1/23 (4%) MSM had comprehensive STI testing. HBV and HCV baseline tests took place in 16/27(59%). 24/27 (89%) were prescribed two drug NPEP and in 23/24 (96%) prescribing was appropriate.

Innovation and Significance:

We identified high risk overseas- born MSM, attending for urgent HIV prevention outside routine business hours, when specialist providers of NPEP were closed. The vast majority were prescribed appropriately, however baseline assessment was incomplete and opportunities in the HIV prevention cascade should be analysed and barriers overcome in this setting. Patient follow up was unclear ;ongoing collaboration between emergency departments and specialist providers is required

Disclosure of Interest Statement :

We have no conflicts of interest.