

Utilisation of an electronic medical record (eMR) HIV Comorbidity Tool in a sexual health service in Sydney – implications for service delivery

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Background/Purpose:

People living with HIV are at a higher risk of developing comorbid conditions. To facilitate identification of these, Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) uses a screening tool (16 domains) which is completed by clinicians in HIV+ patients \geq 40yrs. SSHC introduced a new dedicated HIV Comorbidity clinic, which is a longer appointment to improve tool utilisation. The aim of this project was to analyse the use of the tool by SSHC clinicians.

Approach:

Demographic and tool usage data was collected retrospectively from SSHC's eMR for all HIV+ patients \geq 40yrs who visited between 17/12/20 - 9/11/21. Data was analysed using excel and online T-test/Chi-squared calculators. The tool could be completed in routine appointments or a dedicated clinic.

Outcomes/Impacts:

266 tools were completed (92% by doctors, 8% by nurses) with only 9% of consults in a dedicated HIV Comorbidity clinic. Mean completion rate of all tool questions was 64%. Cancer screening questions had the highest completion rates (anal 87%, breast 85%, colorectal 85%). Higher completion rates were noted in dedicated HIV comorbidity appointments rather than routine HIV appointments (blood pressure 61% vs 37%, $p=0.03$; FRAX 25% vs 4.6%, $p=0.02$; cardiovascular risk 30% vs 1.1%, $p=0.03$). Differences were observed between staff groups in use of Cardiovascular and FRAX calculators. There was a high rate of mental health screening (85%) with 15% of patients reporting a mental health issue. Alcohol-use was also well screened (73%) with the AUDIT-C questionnaire and 31% of the screened cohort were at increased risk of harm due to alcohol intake.

Innovation and Significance:

We identified high completion rate of the tool overall with further investigation required to identify barriers for completion and utilisation of the dedicated clinic. Impact of a dedicated comorbidity appointment on tool completion rate, holistic assessment and ultimately health outcomes are unclear.

Disclosure of Interest

No potential competing interest.