

The Nurse Practitioner in HIV Care

Laura Vicol MN, NP(F)

Monica Gregory MScN, NP(F)

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

First....

Who Are we?

Nurse Practitioners

A New Health Care Provider in the Province of British Columbia

Definition:

- Nurse practitioner is an experienced nurse with a Master's level education who provides primary care that includes the diagnosis and treatment of common episodic illnesses and chronic disease

Licensure:

- Master's Degree with a Nurse Practitioner specialty
- OSCE
- Licensing exam

Nurse Practitioners

- Provide teaching and intervention in health promotion and prevention
- Obtain Medical Histories / Perform physical examinations
- Diagnose and treat common primary care concerns
- Prescribe medications, physical therapy and rehabilitation treatments
- Provide well-woman care; well-child care; prenatal care and family planning services
- Order and interpret diagnostic studies (e.g., lab tests, x-rays, EKGs)
- Provide referrals to other HCPs

Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice

- Prescriptive authority includes a broad range of medications such as anti-hypertensives, antibiotics, antidepressants
- Nurse practitioners do not prescribe narcotics, ARVs and benzodiazepines
- Nurse practitioners do not order MRIs

Collaboration

NPs maintain close working relationships with:

- Registered Nurses
- Physicians
- Registered Midwives
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Social Workers
- Dietitians
- Outreach Workers
- Other Health Care Providers



NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Second....

Why HIV Care ?

NPs in HIV

- HIV is a chronic, complex multi-system disease
- Aside from specialized care, there is a great need for a wide range of primary care services
- Primary care needs often get lost in the complexity of HIV care
- Marginalization and or difficulty with access may lead to inadequate primary or specialized care follow-up

NPs can Help Fill the Care Gaps!

How Can We Make a Difference?

- Provision of comprehensive holistic primary care
- Specific attention to preventative measures such as sexual health teaching, infectious disease education and immunizations
- Development of an ongoing therapeutic relationship to ensure psychosocial support and continuity of care
- Improved access; clients may call the nurse practitioner to secure advice or an appointment for triage if there are more serious concerns
- Clients essentially now have TWO providers

Greatest Impact

- Routine HIV care
- Management of common primary care issues
- Primary and secondary prevention
- Well woman care
- Care co-ordination with family physicians and specialists

NPs in HIV Care in the US

- Provide comprehensive HIV care and primary care
- Prescribe anti-retrovirals in some states
- Are eligible to sit the American Association of HIV Medicine's Credentialing Examination
- Recent study in the Annals of Internal Medicine (Nov 2005) demonstrated that NPs in HIV care provide safe and effective care that is comparable to specialist physician care

Current Practice Settings for Nurse Practitioners in Vancouver

- **Oak Tree Clinic**
- **Three Bridges Community Health Care Center**

Oak Tree Clinic

Program description

- Specialized HIV care for infected women, pregnant women, partners, children, youth, and support services for affected families.
- Team Members: Peds, IDs, OBs, NP, CNS, Dietitian, SW, Pharmacist, OW, Support Staff
- Tertiary referral outpatient facility providing specialized care in HIV/AIDS

Three Bridges Community Health Care Center

Program description:

- Three Bridges Community Health Center
One of three clinics with the Inner City Division of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Service marginalized populations, offer methadone treatment and harm reduction
- Specialized care in HIV and trans-gendered medicine
- Also offer primary care services

QUESTIONS

