Cherokee Nation Health Services
Hepatitis C Elimination Program

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NM Annual HIV & HCV Update Conference
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Breakout Session 6A Panel Discussion:
Working Toward HCV Elimination

Overview

- Cherokee Nation Jurisdiction and Cherokee Nation Health Services (CNHS)
- CNHS HCV elimination program
- Elimination program preliminary results
- CNHS HCV Cascade of care
Cherokee Nation Jurisdiction

- Estimated 7,000 mi²
- Largest USA tribal operated health system
- Second Largest Tribe in the USA
- 322,855 Registered citizens world-wide
- 128,927 reside within tribal boundaries

Source: Cherokee Nation, 2016

Rationale for Embracing an HCV Elimination Program in the CNHS

- High prevalence of HCV infection
- Comprehensive health system with high patient utilization
- HCV program since 2012
  - Project ECHO for delivery of HCV care
  - Clear pathways for antiviral medication procurement

AI/AN: American Indian/Alaskan Native
Screen 85% of Target Population

Universal Screening (Ages 20-69)

Non-Traditional Screening Sites

New Screening Modalities

Evaluate 85%

Treat 85%

Cure 85%

Expanding Clinical Capacity

Expand ProjectECHO

Expand Case Management Capacity

Decrease Incidence

Public and Provider Awareness
- Public Campaign
- Provider Training

Contact Tracing
- Acute HCV
- PWID

Harm Reduction
- Treatment as Prevention
- OST
- NSEP


“As Native people and as Cherokee Nation citizens, we must keep striving to eliminate hepatitis C from our population.” - Chief Bill John Baker

CNHS HCV Elimination Program Strategies and Goals, 8/2015-10/2018

Political Commitment

October 30, 2015
CN HCV Awareness Day
Out of the estimated 80,928 patients age 20-69, 34,859 (43%) have been screened.

- 28,824 patients screened
  - Male (11,823)
  - Female (17,011)
- 1,022 HCV seropositive
  - Overall Prevalence ~ 3.5%
    - Baby boomers 3.8% (11,700)
      - Male 4.5%, Female 2.9%
    - Non Baby Boomers 3.5% (16,621)
      - Male 4.4%, Female 2.8%

Preliminary Data
CNHS HCV Program: Clinical Capacity Expansion
1/2014 – 3/2017

CNHS HCV Cascade of Care*:
10/2012 - 3/2017

Number of patients

HCV ProjectECHO Introduced
HCV Elimination Started

1 Specialist
2 Physicians
2 APRNs
2 Pharmacists

1 Specialist
6 Physicians
5 APRNs
8 Pharmacists

Number of Patients

HCV RNA Positive Estimate
HCV RNA Positive
HCV evaluation
HCV antiviral treatment

100%
61%
47%
29%

40% of patients who have completed treatment have achieved cure

*preliminary data
**Summary**

- HCV prevalence in CNHS is higher than the overall US prevalence
  - Greater than 50% of the HCV seropositive patients are younger than baby boomers
- The CNHS HCV elimination program is based on
  - Universal Screening
  - Robust Primary care provider HCV workforce (ProjectECHO)
  - Harm Reduction

**Challenges**

- Lack of needle and syringe exchange programs
- Expanding opioid substitution program
- Hard to reach special populations
- HCV surveillance and data collection

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**HCV IN NATIVE OKLAHOMA:**
The whole is more than the sum of its parts

- Cherokee Nation Health Services Team
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- Oklahoma State Department of Health
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  - Sally Bouse
- Project Advisory Committee
Thank you

GV (Wado)

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