

The Ontario Network of Sexual
Assault/Domestic Violence
Treatment Centres (SATC)

In partnership with

The Centre for Research in
Women's Health (CRWH)

Funding provided by

The Canadian Institutes of
Health Research (CIHR)

HIV PEP Program *UPDATE*

HIV PEP Study: An Overview

The development of a standardised approach to HIV prophylaxis for victims/survivors of sexual assault was identified by the Network as an important client care issue. Therefore, with funding from the Ontario Women's Health Council, an HIV PEP study was designed to implement and evaluate a program of universal offering of HIV PEP in Ontario's SATCs and to identify factors crucial to supporting an effective and sustainable province-wide response. The program operated in 24 of Ontario's 34 SATCs from September 2003 to January 2005.

The results of the study, captured through data collection forms, Health Care Provider surveys and focus groups, and client interviews consistently indicate that universal availability of HIV PEP for sexual assault victims/survivors is important.

The majority of Health Care Providers felt that the program improved the overall

services provided to victims/survivors of sexual violence and addressed a major client concern. Clients praised the knowledge and professionalism of SATC staff and their capacity to answer questions about HIV risk and other related issues. High rates of both acceptance and completion of HIV PEP suggest that sexual assault victims/survivors in Ontario are receptive to the provision of HIV PEP.

Key recommendations of the HIV PEP Study final report included the expansion of a program of universal offering of HIV PEP province-wide through the Ontario Network of SATCs; and, the ongoing funding of HIV PEP medications by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC).

If you are interested in reading more about the HIV PEP Study results, contact your SATC Coordinator to access a copy of the final report.

KNOWLEDGE-TO-ACTION

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Ontario Network of Sexual
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Update: HIV PEP Funding

As you know, since the end of the HIV PEP Study the Ontario Network of SATCs has continued to provide HIV PEP medications through funding reallocation and donations from Abbott (maker of Kaletra®) and GlaxoSmithKline (maker of Combivir®).

Based on the findings of the HIV PEP Study and the recommendations made in the final report, the Ontario Women's Health Council is actively seeking ongoing

financial support from the MoHLTC to sustain the universal HIV PEP program. Optimistic that ongoing funding for HIV PEP medications will be secured from the Ministry, the Ontario Women's Health Council has committed to providing additional bridge funding should establishment of ongoing funding be delayed.

Look for further funding updates in future issues of this newsletter.

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COMING SOON

HIV PEP Knowledge Exchange Sessions

May 25th
In-Person at the 2006 SA/DV Conference

June & July 2006
Join by teleconference
Dates & Times in future newsletters

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Next Steps Knowledge-to-Action (KTA) Project

HIV PEP Study recommendations include expanding the universal offering of HIV PEP across Ontario – but just how will that be accomplished?

Sheila Macdonald, Provincial Coordinator, Ontario Network of SATCs, is leading a new Knowledge Exchange project, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, to develop a strategy for province-wide implementation of the universal HIV PEP program. This project will ensure that the collective experiences of Ontario's Health Care Providers are effectively communicated to all SATC teams, and that all Health Care Providers, whether or not they implemented an HIV PEP program, have an opportunity to communicate their experiences and views.

This spring there will be a number of opportunities for knowledge sharing among SATCs and their partners.

Surveys will be circulated to provide decision-makers at Ontario's 34 SATCs with the chance to speak in detail about their experiences regarding the HIV PEP program. A series of focused **Knowledge Exchange Sessions** will be held to provide all interested Health Care Providers an opportunity to talk about what will be needed to ensure the HIV PEP program is sustainable – and specifically what steps are required to

achieve sustainability. The first Knowledge Exchange Session will be held at the 2006 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Conference in Kingston, Ontario on Thursday May 25th, 10:20am, entitled "Making it Work: Sharing Your Experiences to Implement A new Province-wide HIV PEP Program". Four teleconference Knowledge Exchange Sessions will be scheduled for June and July 2006.

Your participation – by completing a survey and/or participating in a knowledge exchange session – will help define and shape the future of your HIV PEP program. The Network needs your help in identifying and strategising to meet the needs of your SATC, staff and clients. The goal of this project is to make your HIV PEP program sustainable.

For those SATCs that were not able to participate in the HIV PEP Study – this is an opportunity to learn from your colleagues that successfully implemented a universal HIV PEP program, and to communicate the challenges your SATC faced in preparing for and evaluating the feasibility of participating in the HIV PEP Study.

For more information about this knowledge-to-action project, please contact Heather Humphries by phone at (416) 351-2538, or by email at heather.humphries@wchospital.ca



CRWH: Research to Improve Women's Lives

MISSION: CRWH integrates scientific and humanistic perspectives to conduct and foster research relevant to women's lives and promote it's application in diverse communities.

VISION: CRWH will be the world's pre-eminent centre for women's health research and will advance practice through knowledge exchange.