

HIV PEP Program *UPDATE*

Knowledge-to-Action Session: *Recap*

Thanks to all who attended the Knowledge-to-Action (KTA) session at the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence 2006 Conference in Kingston. Your feedback was very valuable, and will help to guide the next steps of this project – developing strategies to assist in the province-wide expansion of the universal HIV PEP program.

Health care provider data that was collected from the former HIV PEP Study was reviewed to identify challenges faced by SATC teams throughout the implementation of the HIV PEP program. These challenges included:

- ◆ Limited inter-professional collaboration and a lack of support from crucial allied health personnel (e.g., HIV Specialists, physicians on-site)
- ◆ Gaps in information provided to health care providers and clients about HIV PEP
- ◆ A need for more responsive follow-up care (e.g., increased flexibility, increased role of physicians and/or pharmacists).

The Knowledge-to-Action session confirmed that these challenges still persist at some of the sites.

Key issues discussed at the Kingston session, to be explored in greater detail during the upcoming teleconference sessions, included:

- ◆ Continued uncertainty surrounding

appropriate counselling and HIV risk assessment, particularly with clients at unknown risk and those with special circumstances (e.g., pregnancy)

- ◆ A lack of physician support and/or physician resistance to the universal HIV PEP program
- ◆ Benefits/challenges of using medical directives within the HIV PEP program
- ◆ Accessibility of HIV experts and other physicians for consultation
- ◆ Intensity of the follow-up schedule.

In addition to identifying challenges, a number of suggestions for improvement to the overall HIV PEP program were made, including:

1. Modification of client handouts
 - ⇒ Simplification of language
 - ⇒ More concise communication of HIV risk and medication side effects
 - ⇒ Use of pictures to assist clients with language barriers
 - ⇒ Expanded information included such as sero-conversion rates following HIV PEP and information on pregnancy and HIV PEP
 - ⇒ Inclusion of client scenarios to aid client decision-making.
2. Strategies for increasing access to HIV PEP program information
 - ⇒ Online access to client and health care provider information
 - ⇒ Web-based tutorials for health care provider training
 - ⇒ Development of a “scenario booklet” to support SATC teams in discussing delivery of standardised HIV PEP care.

KNOWLEDGE-TO-ACTION

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Ontario Network of Sexual
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Treatment Centres

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In partnership with

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

Funding provided by

The Canadian Institutes of
Health Research (CIHR)

Health Care Provider
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Join In!



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The Centre for Research
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Knowledge-to-Action Sessions: *Next Steps*

The Research Team will be hosting the following knowledge exchange sessions by teleconference:

Thursday June 22, 4:00pm – Meeting the information needs of service providers and clients to support effective HIV PEP delivery (documents, training/education, research evidence, risk assessment).

Tuesday June 27, 7:00am – Identifying and overcoming barriers to effective collaboration between HIV PEP service delivery partners (medical protocols vs. directives, community partnerships and outreach, information requirements).

Wednesday July 5, 7:00pm – Enhancing responsiveness of follow-up care (resourcing, supporting increased use of follow-up, addressing rural/northern realities).

An additional session will be targeted at those SATCs that did not implement HIV PEP during the study but who are now

interested in moving forward (Date: TBD).

All members of your SATC team are welcome! All sessions will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Participant identities remain confidential and will not be included in transcripts. Participants may decline to answer questions at any time.

To participate, call **1-866-305-1454**
at the time of the session.

When prompted, enter the 7-digit
access code: **8002331**

The universal HIV PEP program will be rolling out across the province in Spring 2007 – we want to hear what you have to say, so please get involved!

If you are interested in sharing your opinion, but your team is unable to participate at the above-listed dates & times, please contact Heather Humphries (heather.humphries@wchospital.ca) to set up an alternate session with your team!

KTA Advisory Committee: Established

The Knowledge-to-Action project has assembled an Advisory Committee consisting of HIV Specialists, SATC Coordinators, an SATC Pharmacist and Follow-up RN, and community representatives. Its primary function will be to provide guidance to the Research Team (in areas reflecting the particular expertise of Committee members) to ensure the relevance, comprehensiveness and accessibility of HIV PEP program materials. This Committee will also contribute to the strategic vision guiding the expansion of the HIV PEP program across Ontario.

Over the coming months the research team will work with a sub-set (working group) of Committee members to review

existing client, counselling and training materials, and to undertake content revisions. The working group will consist of health care providers from SATCs that implemented the HIV PEP program as a part of the HIV PEP Study as well as those that did not take part in the Study (but may have initiated an HIV PEP program independently). The expertise of working group members in HIV PEP and sexual assault treatment will inform strategies for uptake of the universal HIV PEP protocol and knowledge transfer tools developed through the Knowledge-to-Action project.

The first formal meeting of the KTA Advisory Committee is scheduled for mid-September 2006. Look for updates on Committee progress in future newsletters.

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