Sexual Health Clinic Outcomes And PrEP Linkage In A Large Urban Emergency Department

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Background

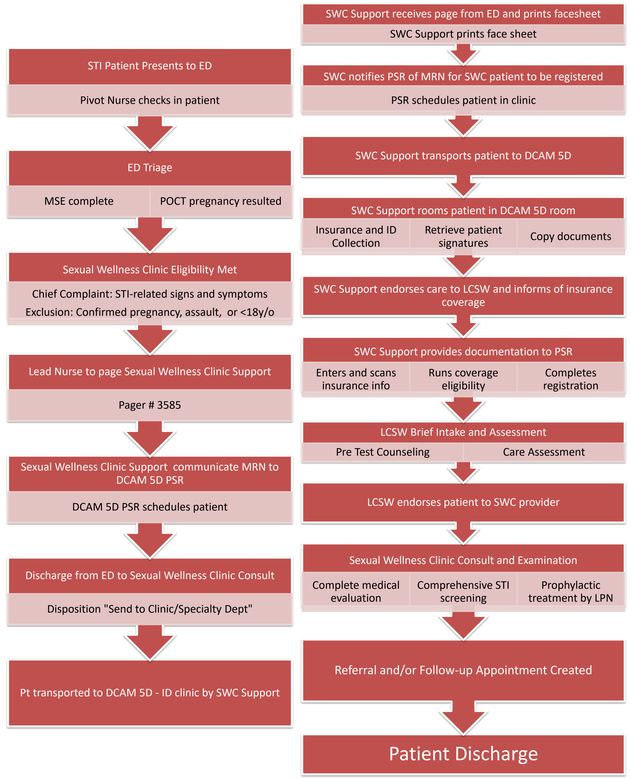
- Closure of municipal sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinics has caused patients to rely on the Emergency Department (ED) for their sexual health needs.
- The Sexual Wellness Clinic (SWC) was created to provide comprehensive sexual health care and primary care linkage to patients presenting to the ED with STI complaints

Methods

- SWC-eligible patients are identified at ED intake and undergo a Medical Screening Exam (MSE) by a triage physician before transport to clinic
- Once at the SWC, patients undergo a complete history and physical examination, comprehensive STI testing, and, if indicated, empiric treatment as well as same-day initiation of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Social services within the clinic also assist in arranging primary care follow-up either at the medical center or an affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- We performed a retrospective review of SWC patients from February 20, 2019 through September 30, 2021.

Transferring ED patients to a **specialized sexual health clinic** is **feasible** and **identifies unique target populations** for STI and HIV elimination efforts.

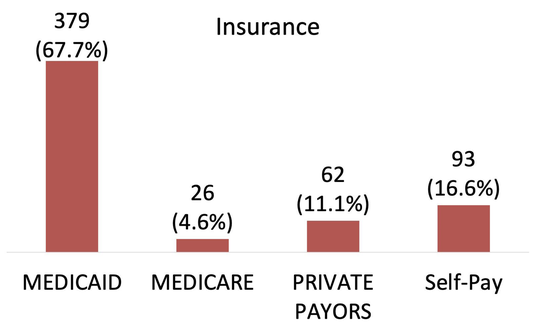
SWC Workflows

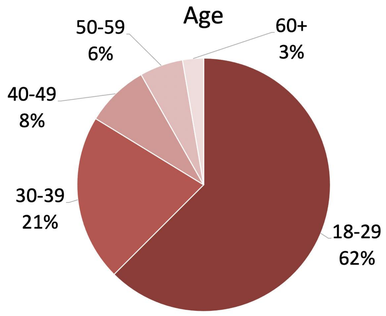


Results

560 patients seen 2/20/2019 through 9/30/2021

- 50.5% cis-male, 49.5% cis-female
- Age range 18-82, median 30 (IQR 12.42)
- 72.3% of patients use Medicaid/Medicare





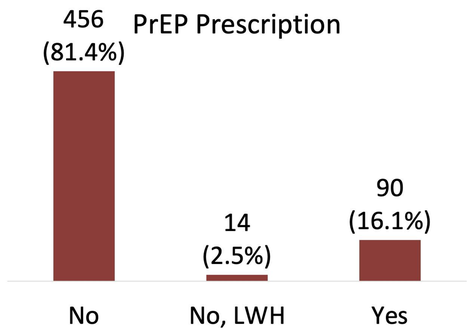
STI Positivity Rates	
Gonorrhea	82 (14.6%)
Chlamydia	75 (13.4%)
Syphilis	132 (23.5%)
HSV	5 (0.89%)
HIV	3 (0.54%)

Same-Day PrEP Starts

- 90 same day PrEP starts (16.1%)
- 56.7% cis-female and 43.4% cis-men

Primary Care Linkage

- All new PrEP starts had a follow-up scheduled
- At 3 months 18 patients continued to take PrEP (20%) and at 6 months only 10 patients continued (11.1%)



Conclusions

- This unique workflow is feasible at a large urban ED
- Majority of PrEP starts in cis-women, differing from metropolitan STI clinics
- Room to improve adherence to PrEP
- Identifying new at-risk populations is integral to support local and national HIV/STI elimination efforts

Acknowledgements

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