HIV in Aged Care Facilities: A Victorian Model of Care

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PLHIV within the Victorian HIV Service in 2013
- PLHIV in care, n= 1000
- 40.4% are over the age of 50yrs
- 13.5% are over the age of 60yrs

New HIV diagnoses in Australia
- In the last two years approximately 30% of all new HIV diagnoses have occurred in individuals 50 years of age or older
- 22.6% of new diagnoses in the over 50’s have advanced disease

Issues facing older adults
- Loneliness
- Increasing dependence
- Isolation
- Loss of autonomy
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disclosure of sexual orientation
- Stigma and discrimination

People living with HIV (PLHIV) are ageing

Victorian HIV Consultancy Model of Care
- Working with individuals with escalating care needs requiring high level care
- Assistance in negotiating placement
- Needs analysis and targeted education for staff and carers
- Development and delivery of an individualised HIV specialist care package
- Source and location of appropriate community supports
- HIV monitoring and care plan review
Working with individuals with escalating care needs

- Referrals accepted from both community and hospital setting
- Referrals range from new HIV diagnosis with advanced disease to those with long-term HIV infection
- Age is a factor
- Rehabilitation can take time

Fragility and premature aging

Negotiating placement

- Consultation with patient and family or significant other
- Location to their community
- GLTBI sensitive
- Cultural awareness
- Disclosing HIV to family or facility staff

Needs analysis to target education

- Skill mix of personnel
- Appropriateness and willingness to care for PLHIV
- Willingness to discuss matters of sexuality with aging residents
- Fear and prejudice
- Myths around transmission of HIV

Delivery of HIV specific education

- HIV transmission
- Confidentiality
- Disclosure
- Understanding standard precautions
- Exposure to blood or body fluids
- Basic understanding of HIV medication
- Importance of adherence

Challenges

- Education of staff
- Overcoming discrimination
- Overcoming myths surrounding HIV
- Supporting individuals to adjust to their new environment
- Making sure that their links to the outside world are maintained
Linkages to psychosocial supports

- Assist to keep people connected to their community
- Victorian AIDS Council
- Community Support Program
- Peer Support Program
- Positive Women
- Straight Arrows
- HIV CALD Service

HIV monitoring and Care Planning

- HIV physician review
- Monitoring
- Medication review
- Drug interactions
- Nursing review
- Care plan review
- Liaison with nursing staff and community supports

Looking to a brighter future....

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References