PROJECT STOP: The Syphilis to PREP Cascade

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Purpose

• Utilize existing health service infrastructure to link individuals reported to Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) for syphilis or partners of newly diagnosed HIV cases to PrEP.
• Identify PrEP providers in Connecticut and a process for patient referrals.
• Increase awareness and uptake of PrEP prescribing among Connecticut primary care physicians.
Methods

• Since September 2015, all reported syphilis cases and partners of newly diagnosed HIV cases to DPH are identified as PrEP candidates.

• Disease intervention specialist (DIS) refers case to DPH PrEP Navigator and notifies PrEP candidate of future contact during routine calls.

• The PrEP Navigator contacts candidate to provide PrEP education and linkage to PrEP services.
## Syphilis to PrEP Cascade (3/31/16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify PrEP Candidate</td>
<td>71 individuals with syphilis or a partner of newly diagnosed HIV were reported to DPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer candidate to PrEP</td>
<td>21 individuals referred by DIS to PrEP Navigator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigator</td>
<td>• 12 individuals were reached by PrEP Navigator</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 8 accepted PrEP referral</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 4 accessed PrEP services</td>
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Syphilis Cases and Partners of Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in CT

- Identified as PrEP Candidates: 100%
- Referred to PrEP Navigator: 30%
- Reached by PrEP Navigator: 17%
- Accepted PrEP referral and services: 11%
- Accessed PrEP Services: 6%

September 2015-March 2016
Lessons for Network

• Involve key players in protocol development
• PrEP Continuum
  • Integrate PrEP in routine DIS calls
  • Repeat contact with PrEP candidates
  • Connect with local PrEP navigators for handoff
• Increase PrEP uptake by more providers
DPH PrEP Working Group

- Marianne Buchelli, DPH
- Sarah K. Calabrese, CIRA
- Daniel Davidson, DPH
- A.C. Demidont, CIRCLE CARE
- Dulce Dones-Mendez, DPH
- Heidi Jenkins, DPH
- Jianghong Li, ICR
- Jim Pettinelli, CIRA
- Krystn R. Wagner, FHCHC
- Peg Weeks, ICR
Progress

• “Putting PrEP Into Practice”
  – 1 hour trainings for primary care clinicians
  – Coordinated by DPH
  – CME provided by NEAETC (Karina Danvers)
  – 5 trainings at FQHCs
  – Approximately 80 individuals trained

• CT DPH: PrEP Provider Website
  – Updated info for easy referral
  – Meetings of PrEP providers
  – PrEP Protocol for Clinicians
Next Steps

• Revise Project STOP protocol with aim to connect more individuals to PrEP services

• Continue trainings for primary care providers

• Develop DPH PrEP Action Plan

• Continue DPH PrEP Working Group