

Project Number: XNV 11-36

Project Title: HIV/AIDS Treatment Adherence, Health Outcomes, and Cost

Background/Rationale:

Adherence to treatment for HIV/AIDS regimens is often compromised by the co-occurrence of substance abuse and mental health problems, complex medication issues, and a lack of treatment accessibility. Offering specialized interventions that target substance abuse and trauma related symptoms should help to improve overall adherence to treatment recommendations for HIV care, and possibly health outcome and health care costs associated with care. Additional research is needed to improve our understanding of the types of specialized treatment interventions that can effectively reduce substance use and trauma related symptoms in patients who are HIV seropositive and to study the costs of different treatment patterns.

Objectives:

The primary goals of the project are to determine whether a specialized treatment program focused on substance abuse, symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and adherence issues, offered in the context of HIV care will: (1) improve adherence and health outcomes for patients living with HIV, and (2) reduce health care costs associated with HIV care, relative to "Care as Usual."

Methods:

One hundred and twenty participants receiving their HIV care at a University Hospital in a major metropolitan area were recruited. Baseline and follow-up surveys were administered to determine health status measures. Boston Medical Center charges and payments have been obtained.

Findings/Results:

76 Boston Medical Center patients enrolled in the study. Total costs to the medical facility have been constructed. Analyses are currently being conducted.

Impact:

This project will identify the (inpatient, outpatient and pharmacy) costs associated with providing integrated mental health, substance use, and primary medical treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS from the major provider's perspective and examine the relationships of costs with disease severity.