Comparison between Metropolitan and Regional HIV Medical and Nursing Care based on European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) Guidelines (2015)

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AIM
To measure adherence to good practice between two ID services - Bendigo Health and Austin Health - as determined by the European AIDS Clinic Society Guidelines (EACS): Assessment of HIV-positive persons at initial and subsequent visits.

METHOD
A file audit of 39 randomly selected HIV positive de-identified patient files (19 Bendigo Health, 20 Austin Health) was conducted.
Four domains from the EACS Guidelines were assessed: History, HIV disease, Co-infections, and Co-morbidities. Within each domain, multiple criteria were judged as either having been met or not, at the time of initial appointment or in subsequent clinic visits within a 12month period where applicable.

RESULTS:
Total number of patients assessed = 19 at Bendigo Health and 20 at Austin Health

COMMENTS:
• Variation of results may be influenced by Bendigo clinic assessment being more purposeful to gain as much information as possible and more consistent in some domains.
• Several monogamous couples in both services

HIV DISEASE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site- 2015-2016</th>
<th>Number on antiretroviral therapy</th>
<th>Undetectable viral load on ART*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>20 (100%)</td>
<td>20/20 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>16/17* (94%)</td>
<td>15/16 (94%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*2 Bendigo patients transferred care so did not have monitoring in this period
* Excluding blips <100 copies/mL

COMMENTS:
• Compliance with surveillance measures accepted, most tests done on site post clinic for convenience.
• Austin lack of non-urine testing.
• Clients wait until see ID Physician to manage recent risk behaviour. Lack of access to PEP at both sites.
• Few acceptable choices for Bendigo clients outside ID clinic

BENDIGO HEALTH
Bendigo Health plans to improve its delivery of care via:
1. HIV Clinical Nurse Consultant to work more closely with clients and ID Physicians to enable the expansion of Initial Assessments.
2. Development and implementation of innovative methods of assertive outreach to rural based clients.

AUSTIN HEALTH
Austin Health plans to improve its delivery of care via:
1. Implementation of alerts in the Electronic Medical Record for upcoming appointments, eg. "STI screen due".
2. Internal education on assessment of cardiovascular comorbidity and frequency of related investigations.