Introduction

Sexually transmissible infections (STIs) including HIV remain a significant public health issue for gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM).

General Practitioners (GPs) play an essential role in HIV and STI testing and management with over 50% of testing in NSW occurring within general practice settings.

The STIs in Gay Men Action (STIGMA) Group developed the Sydney Gay Friendly GP List in 2010. GPs were invited to self-nominate with their contact details and it was hosted online.

In 2013 the list was updated and through this process, it was identified that some GPs needed further training.

Method

A literature review was conducted mid-2014 which identified online learning as an effective modality for providing GPs with MSM relevant training.

An expert committee was established including GP and community representatives to provide input and guide the development of the online learning module.

Key issues around primary care experiences of MSM were identified and a 60 minute self-paced online learning module was developed.

The interactive online learning module aims to increase the competence and confidence of GPs and other health professionals in identifying and addressing issues related to sexual health and wellbeing relevant to MSM.

Results

Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice - an Online Learning Module

Consists of 3 modules, 20 minutes each module:

Module 1: Towards a better understanding of gay men and MSM

Module 2: Discussing sexual history and testing for STIs

Module 3: Common health issues facing gay men and MSM

Accreditation and endorsement

• An accredited Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) activity
• GP's who complete the online learning module in full can accrue RACGP 2 Category 2 QI & Continuing Professional Development Points
• Endorsed by the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)

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Access to the online module

To access the online learning module, go to http://stipu.nsw.gov.au/stigma/becoming-more-gay-friendly

Conclusion

The Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice – an Online Learning Module is Australia’s first online training that promotes optimal care for MSM in general practice settings.

This training package will assist GPs to improve consumer engagement, understand sexual diversity and promote effective screening and treatment of STIs in gay men and MSM.

References

1 Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Australia; 2 East Sydney Doctors, Australia; 3 Taylor Square Private Clinic, Australia; 4 HIV/AIDS and Related Programs Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Australia; 5 Albion Centre, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Australia; 6 ACON, Australia; 7 Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Western Sydney Local Health District, Australia;