

Increasing Manitoba First Nations' Access to Addiction Medicine and Enhancing Community Capacity through a Mobile Delivery Model: A Pilot Project

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

The Pilot Project investigates the effectiveness of a mobile addiction team offering services to Northern Manitoba First Nations' communities. The goal of the project is to increase community access to addiction services and enhance community capacity so services can be maintained or further developed by community stakeholders once the project concludes. Services have included Opioid Agonist Therapy, workshops, educational sessions, contingency management and narcotics anonymous groups, as well as counselling, harm reduction, and any other addiction-related medical needs.

Community members completed surveys after workshops and education sessions, and patients were assessed using a monthly quality of life scale. Retention in care was reported as the percentage of follow-up appointments attended.

Initial community buy-in was slow, with minimal patient recruitment over the first 2-3 months. However, as the project has progressed, community stakeholder understanding of the project, as well as positive word of mouth, has seen a significant increase in patient numbers. Quality of life scales have generally trended upwards, though patients lost to care continue to pose a challenge. Capacity building has progressed, as evidenced by local physician assistants being trained for Sublocade administration and community workers increased participation in workshop facilitation.

The pilot project is demonstrating positive effects on community members in First Nations' Communities. However, it remains to be seen from a cost-benefit analysis if the project can be sustainable long-term. As the mobile addiction toolkit is further developed (slide decks, workshops, educational sessions), rolling out services to additional communities should become increasingly easier and more cost-effective.

Key Words

- Indigenous Groups
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Rural
- Sociocultural Factors
- Treatment Models/Programs

Learning Objective # 1

Gain knowledge of a new addiction delivery model.

Learning Objective # 2

Develop understanding of the addiction challenges facing northern Indigenous populations .

Reference # 1

N/A

Reference # 2

N/A

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