

Supervision and Implementation in a CTP

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Community Treatment Program: Implementation and Experience

- Evergreen Treatment Services is a community-based non-profit agency in Seattle providing medication assisted treatment for opioid dependent individuals
 - ✓ 1100 patients in 3 fixed sites and one mobile van
 - ✓ 17 years of experience in conducting research studies
- Involvement in CTN-0018 and CTN-0019

Study Interventions versus ETS Treatment as Usual Intervention

Study Interventions

- 1 or 5 Sessions
- Voluntary Participation for All Patients
- Group Size: 6-8 Patients
- Gender Specific
- Co-Leaders
- More focus on HIV, HCV & Other STD's
- 5 session Interventions included exercises, practice, problem solving, coping skills training

Study Interventions versus ETS Treatment as Usual Intervention

Treatment as Usual: HIV Education

- 1 Session – Didactic
- Mandatory for New Patients
- Group Size: 10-35 Patients
- Single Group Leader
- Co-Educational

ETS Study Experiences: Patient Participants

- **Recruitment Went Well**

- ✓ Randomization for 0018 began 4/04
- ✓ Randomization for 0019 began 5/04
 - **Randomized 7 Group Cohorts for each study**
 - **Able to recruit 6 –8 Patients for each Cohort**
 - **Final 0018 Group Intervention completed in 2/05**
 - **Final 0019 Group Intervention completed in 3/05**

Patient Participant Study Experiences

Participant Characteristics

- ✓ Wide range of patient ages (20's to 70's)
- ✓ Length of time in treatment included newly admitted and longer-term patients

Patient Participant Experiences

- Group session attendance rates were good
- Participants frequently voiced positive comments regarding group content and stated they acquired new information and skills
- Adverse Events
 - ✓ Participant drug affected behavior
 - ✓ Few participants were unable to complete all study f/u interviews due to hospitalizations, incarcerations or treatment discharges not related to study participation

Patient Participant Experiences: Group Highlights

0018 Study

- ✓ Condom Practice Exercises
- ✓ Discussion of barriers to Condom Use
- ✓ Identification Exercises regarding unsafe sex triggers
- ✓ Challenging male & female stereotype discussion
- ✓ Discussion about self responsibility in sexual relationships
- ✓ Gender specific intervention

Patient Participant Experiences: Group Highlights

0019 Study

- ✓ Condom practice exercises
- ✓ HIV/STD information: risks & resources
- ✓ Partner communication exercises
- ✓ Ability to problem and receive coaching regarding individualized problem situations & relationships
- ✓ Gender specific intervention

Group Clinician Experiences

- Challenge of implementing manualized interventions & increasing comfort regarding dealing with topic of sexual behavior with patients
- Need to devote time to training and practice
- Initial stress of having all sessions audio-taped
- Need to schedule time for regular supervision and feedback sessions
- Challenge of maintaining good co-leader relationships
- Overall: All study clinicians voiced that participation in projects was positive

Therapist Supervisor Experiences

Challenges of supervising clinicians utilizing manualized interventions

- ✓ Required attendance of Therapist/ Supervisor pre-training sessions
- ✓ Required participating in therapist pre-implementation practice/training sessions
- ✓ Session audio-tape review issues
- ✓ Challenges of presenting structured feedback to study therapists during weekly supervision meetings during intervention phase of studies

Therapist Supervisor Experiences

- Supervision responsibilities included working with Site Research Coordinator & scheduled supervisor/therapist conference calls with both Study Coordinating Centers
- Overall Experience was positive! Primary challenges were additional time to schedule for supervision activities and ensuring that staff maintained attention to study protocols and avoided “research drift” phenomenon

Changes at ETS: Post Study

- Still conducting mandatory single session education groups for new patients
- Study Clinicians have taken new position of HIV/HCV Education Services Coordinator
- Groups now co-led
- HIV/STD didactic information & handouts have been updated and revised
- Additional group focus on male & female condom practice
- Utilizing 0018 Flipcharts and other study materials

Future Plans

- Once study results become available, agency may utilize 5-Session gender specific interventions in existing agency groups and with identified higher risk patients