

Engaging and Maintaining HIV infected Pregnant Women into prenatal care and treatment

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Engaging and Maintaining HIV infected Pregnant Women into Prenatal Care and Treatment

- Implementation of Protocol 076 at the HUG-Me clinic
- Enhancement of the Protocol by the use of outreach workers (i.e., TOPWA program)
- The role of the TOPWA program in successfully engaging & maintaining HIV-infected pregnant women in care



Overview of HUG-Me's Services

- Help Understand and Guide Me (HUG-Me) is a community-based program affiliated with Orlando Health
- Serves those who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Located in Orlando, Florida
- Serves the tertiary medical needs of high-risk patients with HIV/AIDS residing in seven counties in Florida.



U.S. Transmission Rate Data Prior to Protocol 076

- In 1993,
 - 68% of pregnant women were voluntarily tested for HIV
 - 27% of HIV-positive women were offered AZT
- In 1994,
 - 6,000-7,000 HIV-infected women gave birth
 - 25% (or 1,500-1,750) of their infants were infected
 - Locally, 54 HIV positive children received medical care at Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando, FL



Current Transmission Rates

- In the U.S., estimated transmission rates are:
 - 25% with no treatment
 - 8% using Protocol 076 (Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group results) for treatment

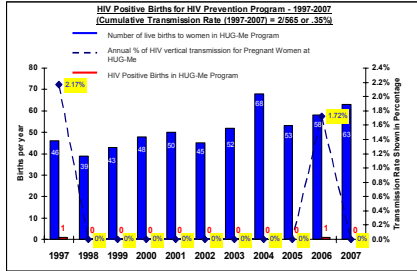


HUG-Me Implements Protocol 076

- HUG-Me incorporated the recommendations from the CDC and the Public Health Service System (PHS)
 - Counseling and Testing
 - Administration of appropriate medications before, during, and after delivery
- HUG-Me was able to maintain a 0% transmission rate for a span of eight years (1998-2006).



HIV Positive Births for HUG-Me HIV Prevention Program – 1997-2006 (8 years in a row of no transmissions!)



HUG-Me Implementation

- HUG-Me hired staff dedicated to implementing Protocol 076
 - Nurse/Program Coordinator
 - Social Worker



OH Implementation

- Hospital implemented Protocol 076 in the Labor and Delivery department
 - Standards of Care
 - Residency Program
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Coordination with Inpatient Facilities
 - Transition to Outpatient



HUG-Me's Priorities

- Goal: 0% transmission rate to newborns
- Provide HIV counseling and testing to all pregnant women
- Provide treatment before, during, and after delivery



Hospitals' Priorities

- Provide care consistent with a Center of Excellence
- Reduce the number of HIV positive infants that require medical care



Hug-Me Services to HIV-infected Pregnant Women

- The goals of HUG-Me and Orlando Health interface to provide a seamless system of care
- The HUG-Me team consists of an OB nurse, a social worker, and a licensed mental health therapist who follow the mother from the time she learns of her pregnancy until after she delivers her baby



Challenges to Implementing Protocol 076

- Patient resistance due to stigma
- Advanced status of the disease when the mother seeks care
- Noncompliance with the regimen
- Lack of knowledge of HIV status



Infection and Pregnancy

- Conception and HIV infection are occurring far too close in time
- Stigma this creates can sometimes prevent women from seeking care because of shame, guilt, and fear of rejection



Linkage to Available Resources

- A lack of awareness of resources
- Oftentimes, she may not even know that the chances of delivering an infant who does not have HIV are very high



[Teamwork]

- The HUG-Me team
 - Assists greatly to help the women overcome obstacles
 - Provides the patients with life skills needed for dealing with HIV during and beyond pregnancy



[Collaboration]

- In addition to providing a HUG-Me team for psychosocial support, HUG-Me also utilizes the services offered by TOPWA outreach workers



[TOPWA, 1998 [F.S. 381.0045]]

- In 1998, Florida funded the Targeted Outreach to Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) program to:
 - Identify at-risk women
 - Offer pregnancy and HIV testing to women who are unaware of either their pregnancy or HIV status
 - Link these women to care including:
 - Maternal /child programs



Implementation of TOPWA Services at HUG-Me

- The Orlando Area TOPWA program resides within the HUG-Me program
- Leaders of this program have ensured that the program is culturally sensitive to its clients
- The goal is to identify at-risk women and bring them into care



Meeting Clients Where They Are

- TOPWA workers seek women of child-bearing age who are at-risk for HIV infections
- They may find them in:
 - The woods (homeless)
 - Non-conventional areas
 - Detox facilities



Cultural Sensitivity

- The approach of TOPWA workers is one that takes into account:
 - the woman's immigration status
 - preferred method of communication
- TOPWA workers receive ongoing training on how to best engage these women



[Community Relations]

- Relation with High Risk OB clinic and private physicians
- Relation with client
- Knowledge of service delivery system



[Building Trust]

- Pregnancy and HIV-testing brings clients into care quicker
- One-stop shop
- Continuity of care
- Follow-up contact for 2 years after delivery



[Incentives]

- Baby showers
- Peer support from other women recruited by the program
- Point system



Lessons Learned

- Go to the women where they are
- Team should meet weekly to map out outreach activities and touch base
- Provide incentives to engage this population
- Psychosocial and Peer support is crucial for maintaining women in care



Conclusions

- TOPWA has enhanced the implementation of Protocol 076 by:
 - Increasing client knowledge of their HIV status
 - Providing the client support during pregnancy
 - Continuous engagement of the client in the process
 - Ensuring and facilitating client adherence to the protocol



Questions & Answers



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[Thank You!]