

**APNA National Conference ‘State of the art’ abstract – Melinda Hassall Clinical Nurse,
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Title

Removing Barriers - Online Primary Health Care Nurse education resource to reduce stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Authors

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Key/presenting author bio

In her role as a Clinical Nurse with ASHM, Melinda identifies learning needs and facilitates appropriate training for Primary Health Care Providers within General Practice, Sexual Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs and Corrective Services in Queensland. Melinda advocates for best practice and a collaborative approach to knowledge translation for the Primary Health Care workforce including Doctors, Nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers. Melinda has worked in large metropolitan and remote acute care hospitals, as a Practice Nurse in a remote GP clinic and in Public Health roles in Perth, Alice Springs and Brisbane. Her areas of strongest interest are in Primary Health Care, communicable disease control and prevention through immunisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health promotion. Melinda is a qualified trainer and assessor, has completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Health Promotion and a Master of Public Health. Melinda’s experience across several States and Territories in both Government and non-Government organisations has provided her the opportunity to develop an understanding of clinical practice, regulatory policy, workforce development issues and processes within a variety of settings.

Background/introduction

State the current issue/challenge/situation and why it needs to be addressed.

Systemic barriers to health care, including stigma and discrimination from providers within healthcare continue to be experienced by people at risk of or living with blood borne viruses (BBVs); HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Nurses working within Primary Health Care (PHC) settings have been identified as a priority group to enact changes to practice and assist with reducing stigma and discrimination. PHC Nurses are ideally placed to redress some of the structural factors that impact on the delivery of care for these patients.

Methods/strategies

Explain and justify the methodology/course of action taken for your intervention/project/case study/research.

PHC Nurses are leaders in the provision of innovative care in community settings, including the support for individuals and families living with BBVs. An online learning resource will be designed for PHC Nurses to enhance their knowledge regarding transmission, prevention and treatment of BBVs and assist nurses become greater advocates for their patients navigating the healthcare system. The project aims to inform PHC nurses about the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with BBVs and provide practical tools to support nurses to deliver safe and appropriate care. The

resource will be adapted and embedded into existing learning modules with an identified gap in education related to stigma and discrimination and the care of individuals with or at risk of BBVs.

Results/outcomes

Evaluate and present the results/outcomes of the intervention/project/case study/research.

The resource will be scenario tested in a workshop setting and evaluated to determine its reliability, useability and effectiveness in meeting the project aims. Qualitative feedback from the workshop and focus testing will inform further development of the resource to ensure suitability for the PHC sector. The results will be presented as an interactive key pad assisted voting session to gauge the level of agreement with recommendations. We also propose to hold a focus group at the conference to maximise PHC Nurse input into the resource development.

Conclusions/implications

Explain what the main implications are for your intervention/project/case study/research. This could include implications for practice, policy, structural change, or future research relevant to PHC nursing. Present any recommendations where suitable.

Reducing stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with BBVs during their many encounters with health professionals, is a priority for Government and non-Government entities and advocates of safe, ethical and appropriate health care. The health and wellbeing of people living with BBVs and their families will be greatly improved by seeking and receiving care from a PHC Nurse workforce that is educated in the importance of recognising and eliminating stigma and discrimination from their practice. This intervention will demonstrate the benefits of a collaborative approach to address significant systemic barriers and attitudes that negatively impact access to care, health and wellbeing of people living with BBVs.

Brief summary of abstract (200 words)

Nurses working within Primary Health Care (PHC) settings have been identified as a priority group to enact changes to practice and assist with reducing stigma and discrimination for people at risk of or living with blood borne viruses (BBVs); HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. PHC Nurses are ideally placed to redress some of the structural factors that impact on the delivery of care for these patients. An online learning resource will be designed for PHC Nurses to enhance their knowledge regarding transmission, prevention and treatment of BBVs and assist nurses become greater advocates for their patients navigating the healthcare system. The project aims to inform PHC nurses about the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with BBVs and provide practical tools to support nurses to deliver safe and appropriate care. The resource will be scenario tested in a workshop setting and evaluated to determine its reliability, useability and effectiveness in meeting the project aims. Qualitative feedback from the workshop and focus testing will inform further development of the resource to ensure suitability for the PHC sector. We also propose to hold a focus group at the conference to maximise PHC Nurse input into the resource development.