



LA CASA DE SALUD

INTEGRATING HEPATITIS C AND HIV CARE AT SUBSTANCE
USE TREATMENT PROGRAMS IN THE BRONX

LCDS PROJECT TEAM

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La Casa de Salud
Serving the community with compassion since 1998

Organization History

La Casa de Salud (LCDS) is a network of community health centers committed to improving health outcomes in underserved communities by increasing access to integrated primary care & behavioral health services.

"OUR MISSION IS TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES, LEAD CHANGE, AND PROMOTE HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES"

Population Served

Low Income
Families

PWUD

Homeless
population

Children

LGBTQ+

Seniors

Support Services



Adult Primary & Preventive Care	Case Management	Care Coordination	Pediatric Health Care
HIV & Hep C Services	Comprehensive Immunizations	Harm Reduction Services	Chronic Disease & Pain Management
Substance Abuse Treatment	Behavioral Health Services	Nutritional & Wellness Services	Dental Care
Women's Health	HIV/STD Prevention Services	Affordable and supportive housing	WIC (October 2023)

01

Link and improve PWUD to health prevention services such as vaccination, and harm reduction services.

02

Improve access to treatment patient engagement and retention in care.

03

Enhance coordination among healthcare providers.

04

Better health outcomes and reduce transmission rates.

Strategies For Integration

A photograph showing a white computer keyboard in the upper left corner and a black stethoscope resting on a white surface. The stethoscope's chest piece is on the left, and its two earpieces extend towards the bottom right. The keyboard keys are visible, including letters like S, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, B, V, C, X, Z, and function keys like command and option.

Challenges and Solutions

- Stigma associated with Hepatitis C, HIV, and substance use
- Ensuring continuity of care during transitions
- Patients lost to Care
- Lack of resources and funding
- Staff Turnover

Treatment Options

- **Hepatitis C and HIV treatment options**

- Direct-acting Antivirals (DAAs): Highly effective in curing Hepatitis C by targeting specific steps in the virus's life cycle.
- Interferon-based Therapy: Previously used but now less common due to lower efficacy and more side effects than DAAs.
- Combination Therapies: Some patients may require a combination of DAAs and other medications based on genotype, viral load, and liver condition.

- **Considerations for treating co-infected patients**

- Drug-Drug Interactions
- Liver Health
- Adherence Challenges
- Drug Resistance
- Integrated Care

Organization and Services

Our clinics and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) provide an array of services for patients of all ages
JULY 2021 NEW - December 2023 - **2746** To Primary Care (**108**) **Newly Enrolled HIV Positive Patients**

La Casa De Salud

- HEP C Screenings: 5,971
- HIV Testing: 2,468

Ramon Velez Community Health Center

- HEP C Screenings: 8,013
- HIV Testing: 5,248

Casa Maria Community Health Center

- HEP C Screenings: 4,550
- HIV Testing: 4,306

Clay Community Health Center

- HEP C Screenings: 2,898
- HIV Testing: 1,059

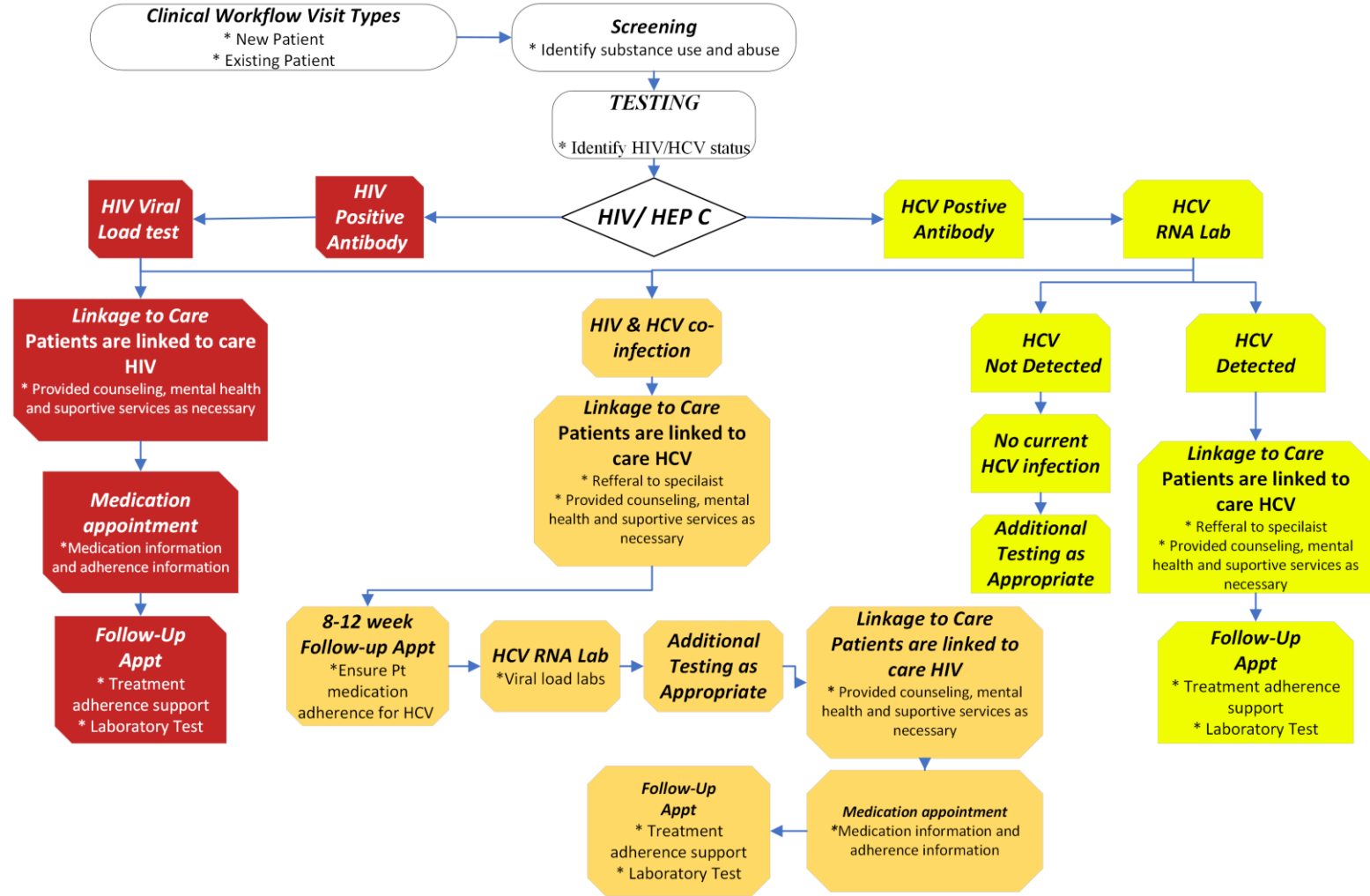
Claremont Community Health Center

- HEP C Screenings: 7,078
- HIV Testing: 5,003

Park Community Health Center

- HEP C Screenings: 1,667
- HIV Testing: 485

HCV-HIV PATIENT TREATMENT FLOW CHART



Client Engagement

- Upon entering the residential program, the client was swiftly identified as requiring HCV treatment. The program, conveniently located alongside one of our FQHCs, offers a holistic approach to care. Recognizing the urgency, the residential staff promptly sought assistance from supportive colleagues. Together, they collaborated to surmount barriers and ensure the client received essential HCV treatment. Through clear communication, they engaged the client in discussions about the critical need for treatment to safeguard their liver health. The team provided the client with easily understandable information about treatment options, emphasizing the simplicity and significance of curing HCV. This empowered the client and ignited their determination to pursue treatment. Despite facing various challenges such as lack of awareness, co-occurring conditions, psychosocial factors, substance use, health literacy, and stigma and misconceptions, the team achieved an impressive feat by linking the client with a healthcare provider within just 72 hours of the warm handoff. This swift action not only underscored the team's unwavering dedication but also highlighted their ability to overcome obstacles on the journey to health and healing.
- In January 2024, the client achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing the SVR labs, marking yet another achievement in our journey toward eliminating HCV. The confirmation of their cure brings immense joy and reinforces our commitment to providing comprehensive care. The client's unwavering determination to remain free of HCV is profound, and their willingness to share their story and experience with peers is truly inspiring.
- Their courageous act of sharing has sparked a ripple effect, motivating others to seek help from supportive staff in accessing HCV treatment. As a result, 4 out of the 6 individuals have already initiated their treatments, with 2 more pending. This collective progress is a testament to the power of resilience, peer support, and the unwavering dedication of our team to facilitate healing and transformation in the lives of those we serve.



Future Direction

- LCDS will continue its provision of culturally appropriate HIV and HCV counseling, testing, and referral services to identify those unaware of their status as well as offer its comprehensive continuum of HIV care to clients.
- Although we aim to provide the best of services within our network, we will increase our warm handoffs to maximize the responsiveness to the local PWUD population.

THANK YOU!



"We all have to come together to fight against hepatitis and not surrender to this disease. Happy World Hepatitis Day." - Anonymous

ANY QUESTIONS?

