

Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment Partnerships in Virginia

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Overview

Introduction

Testing Program

Partnership Models

Statewide Telehealth and Provider Trainings

Barriers and Challenges

Testing Program



Provide testing support in a few different ways



Centralized agreement with Orasure for rapid HCV antibody tests



Given access to Office of Epidemiology state LabCorp account and direct bill VDH for nonchargeable clients



Can be part of funded programs or standalone no-cost testing agreement



Required to provide testing data and adhere to Division of Disease Prevention testing quality assurance standards

Partnership Models

- Not overly prescriptive
- Provide support to the extent that resources allow
- Type of testing is largely based on capacity and preference of the partner



Rapid

Community-based and harm reduction
Most flexible testing only



Conventional

Primarily clinic-based, less field testing
Conventional only or primarily



Hybrid

Combination of rapid and conventional
Rapid testing and conventional testing mix



Treatment Support

Provides in-house treatment options
Can be a part of any of the former models

Rapid Testing

- Testing sites are rapid testing only, provided testing equipment at no cost in exchange for data.
- More often mobile sites or do a lot of field-testing events with higher risk populations
- Common for harm reduction programs
- Asked to have a formal referral agreement with a local provider
- Use other linkage interventions/active referrals in lieu of ability to do confirmatory testing in-house

More community-based with emphasis on field testing

Prioritize ease of access and focus on high priority populations

Provider not typically on staff

Other medical services not usually provided

Requires referral to confirmatory RNA testing, Opportunities for linkage gaps

Conventional Testing

- Given access to LabCorp account and able to bill approved tests for nonchargeable clients to VDH
- Usually have an established laboratory testing area and is much more clinical in nature
- Will be able to provide confirmatory testing and more direct linkages in-house, but don't have the same flexibility for targeted testing as flexible sites.



Sites with more clinical capacity



Usually have a provider on staff



Conventional testing primarily, though integrated with other health services



Setting is typically fixed site, sometimes a free clinic or FQHC



May struggle with access to higher risk areas

Hybrid Testing

- Supported through access to rapid testing program, receive testing supplies from VDH at no cost
- Given access to LabCorp account and able to bill approved tests for nonchargeable clients to VDH
- Able to both decrease gaps by providing in-house referrals and do targeted field-testing with priority populations.
- May combine testing workflows with other linkage interventions



Mix of rapid and conventional testing



Sites will have more clinical capacity, standing order for tests or provider on staff



Use rapid in field environments and refer in-house for confirmatory testing



Conventional as screening test dependent on program



Decreases common gaps between rapid anti-HCV+ and confirmatory testing

Treatment Support

- Given expanded access to VDH LabCorp account, can bill HCV treatment labs for nonchargeable clients at no cost
- Is often also a hybrid or conventional testing site
- Currently includes:
 - The four health districts in far Southwest Virginia where HCV rates have been highest (all four of which also have established harm reduction programs)
 - Statewide telehealth partner
 - A Free clinic in Richmond with expansive community health programming.

Sites that have the capacity to provide HCV treatment

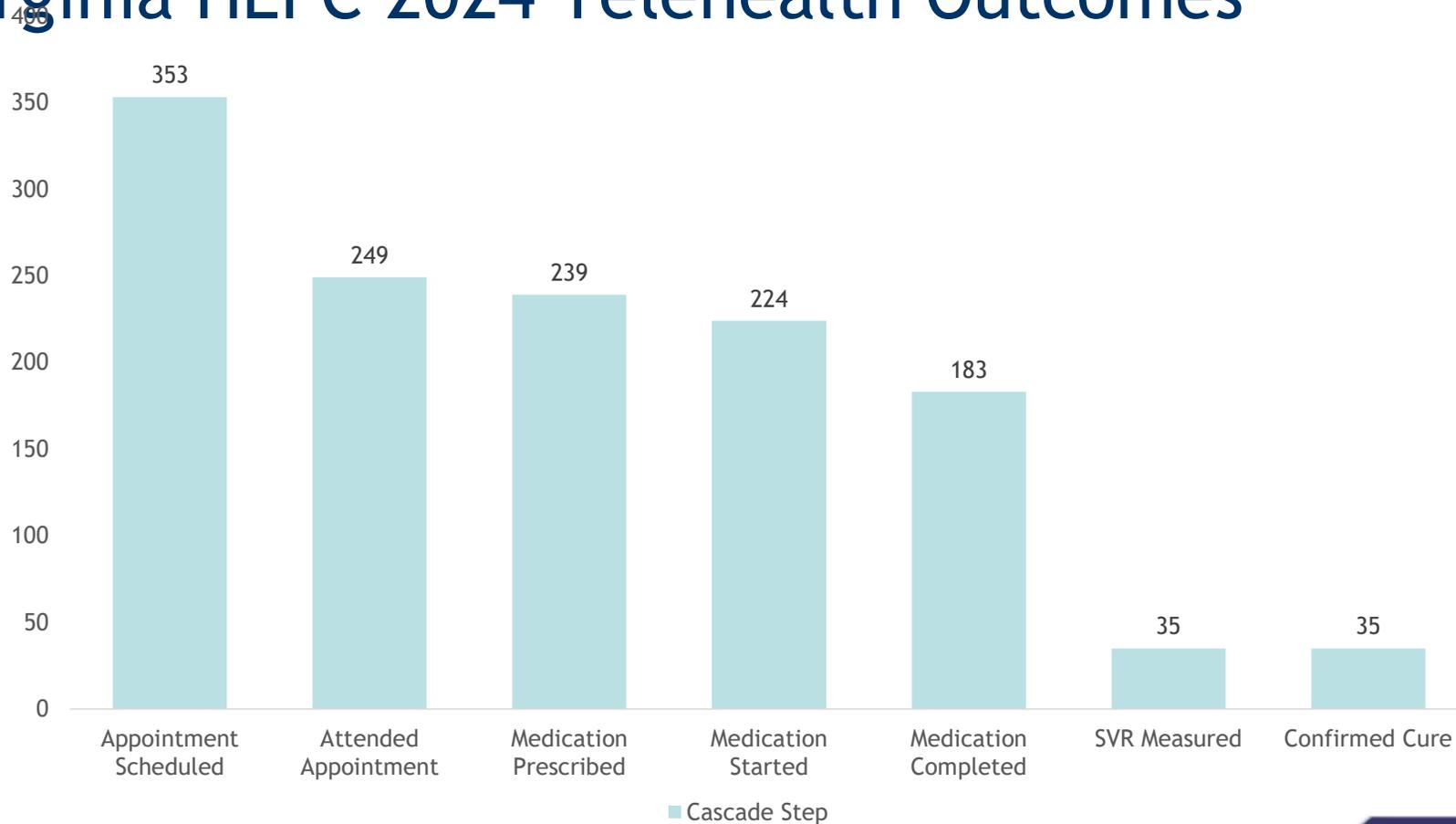
Can be a component of either model that uses conventional testing

Provider on staff who can prescribe and monitor progress

Statewide Telehealth

- Partnership with hospital system
- Virginia Hepatitis Education and Patient Connection
- Originally started in 2017 under UVA Health System but has moved to Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital
- Online referral hub where patients or providers can make referral
- VDH provides treatment lab support for nonchargeable patients
- Program staff orders labs and conducts appointment over WiFi
- Partner for many testing sites without other treatment options
- Provide TA to testing sites and free trainings to providers

Virginia HEPC 2024 Telehealth Outcomes



Challenges

Funding landscape continues to be an issue

Getting treatment data from sites without providing more direct resources

Navigation and care linkage at sites without staff resources

Contact

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