COURSE SYLLABUS

HIV for Health Professionals: An Introduction

The course, *HIV for Health Professionals: An Introduction* aims to extend the knowledge and skills of doctors, nurses and other allied health care professionals working in Queensland to enable them to provide competent safe care to people at risk of, living with and affected by HIV.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is open to any health care professionals working in, or new to the management of HIV. This course will provide participants with an introduction to the epidemiology, pathophysiology and clinical management of HIV/AIDS along with knowledge and understanding of some of the psychosocial issues experienced by people living with HIV (PLHIV). Participants will also gain an awareness of the public health aspects of HIV management including legal issues, notification and prevention strategies.

Completion of the course will equip participants with the knowledge, attitudes and skill to enable them to provide quality evidence informed and safe care in specialty HIV and sexual health clinics along with a variety of primary and tertiary health practice settings.

COURSE RATIONALE

The *HIV for Health Professionals: An Introduction* course was developed to address an identified need in Queensland for an accessible, succinct, evidence informed course that contains the essential and relevant information to affect change in practice for those providing care to people at risk of, living with and affected by HIV.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the epidemiological factors of HIV/AIDS at local, national and global levels, HIV life cycle and natural history and explain their relevance to HIV transmission, diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
2. Illustrate understanding of current guidelines related to screening, diagnosis, management and treatment for HIV and demonstrate their utility in developing models of care and prevention relevant to the health needs of priority groups.
3. Demonstrate understanding of HIV pharmacological care by comparing and contrasting different classes of HIV antiretroviral therapies and their related side effects and describing the issues associated with access and supply of post exposure prophylaxis.
4. Critically appraise the legal and ethical issues of caring for people at risk and living with HIV, including an understanding of relevant legal, statutory and regulatory requirements.
5. Critically appraise current clinical practice and the work environment to identify hazards/risks for unsafe patient care, discrimination and infection prevention and demonstrate an ability to implement practice plans that ensure a safe and welcoming environment for people living with and affected by HIV.

These learning outcomes will be measured using a combination of tools including:

1. Participation in online videos, interactivity assessment and case studies.
2. Comparison of the written pre-disposing activity with the written post-course reinforcing activity;
3. Completion of the online participant evaluation.
COURSE STRUCTURE

Developed in collaboration with specialist HIV clinicians and leading researchers in the field of HIV, this course is delivered using a mixture of high-quality, quality improvement and continuing professional development educational activities. This approach has been taken to foster an interactive online developmental learning environment for health care professionals new to HIV.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of HIV or related topics. This course, however, does presume participants can communicate effectively when talking about sex and sexual health, and display confidence with language and cultural sensitivity in taking a non-judgemental adequate history, from prior learning and experience.

The online course includes the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Estimated Time to Complete</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-course Activity (Written)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(RACGP QI &amp; CPD program requirement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact or Myth Activities</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Presentations</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quick Reviews</td>
<td>1 hour 35 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summative Assessments (graded)</td>
<td>1 hour 35 minutes</td>
<td>15% per section (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Evaluation Activity</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(RACGP QI &amp; CPD program requirement)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-course Activity (Written)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(RACGP QI &amp; CPD program requirement)</td>
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Each of the six summative assessments should be completed at the end of each section. You will be asked a combination of multiple choice, poll and written questions and you must receive 50% or greater for a pass mark.

Graded assessments, pre- and post- course activities and the course evaluation must all be completed to receive 40 Category 1 points in the RACGP QI&CPD Program.

This course can contribute 8 hours towards annual continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for other health professionals.

The course is structured for mobile implementation using local resource personnel and has attempted to remain non-geographically focussed.

This online course, HIV for Health Professionals: An Introduction is a prerequisite to the ASHM Prescribers’ Course in HIV Medicine.
SESSION LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Session 1: HIV Basics**

**Understanding HIV**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Define and summarise the main characteristics of HIV and AIDS
2. Identify and describe the presentation of common AIDS related conditions and opportunistic infections

**Transmission**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the mode and means of transmission of HIV

**Epidemiology**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Provide an overview of the epidemiology of HIV on a local, national and global level
2. Identify priority populations and describe local and national health priorities in relation to reducing the incidence of HIV

**Session 2: Talking about HIV**

**Communication**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand how to effectively communicate with clients
2. Discuss ways to build trust with and establish a rapport with clients

**How to take a sexual history**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the essential components of sexual health screening
2. Identify key sexual health screens

**Prevention**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how post exposure prophylaxis works and the immediate management of exposure
2. Discuss the steps undertaken in conducting a risk assessment for PEP
3. Identify where PEP can be access in Queensland and describe the contemporary issues associated with accessing and supplying post exposure prophylaxis
4. Describe HIV prevention strategies including the principles of harm minimisation.
Session 3: Testing and Diagnosis for HIV

Testing

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the available tests used for screening, confirmation and management of HIV infection

Rapid Testing

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify Barriers to testing
2. Describe rapid test benefits

Interpretation of Test Results

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Interpret test results and discuss implications to practice

Pre and Post Test Discussions

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the available tests used for screening, confirmation and management of HIV infection
2. Interpret test results and discuss implications to practice
3. Describe the issues involved with supporting clients being given a positive, indeterminate or negative result.

Session 4: Public Health

New diagnosis and notification

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the essential HIV related public health information to be provided to a client with a new diagnosis of HIV to ensure they are able to maintain their own health and prevent placing others at risk.
2. Explain the purpose of notification and the clinician’s legal obligation to notify to Department of Health.

Managing HIV related Public Health Concerns

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the Guideline for Management of People with HIV who Place Others at Risk of HIV as one model for the management of HIV related public health concerns
2. Identify circumstances which may lead to the reasonable opinion that a person is placing others at risk of HIV
3. Describe key steps in the investigation of HIV related public health concerns
Legal Issues and Informed Consent
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the legal and ethical issues of caring for people at risk and living with HIV
2. Identify relevant legal, statutory and regulatory legislation and guidelines

Contact Tracing
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe your responsibility in relation to confidentiality, notification, disclosure of status and contact tracing when working in the HIV field.

Session 5: Treating HIV
Natural History
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the natural history and stages of HIV progression.
2. Understand signs and symptoms of Primary HIV infection including seroconversion illness.
3. Explain the relevance of HIV natural history to HIV transmission, diagnosis and treatment prevention strategies.

Structure and Lifecycle
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the structure of the virus and the processes involved in the cycle of HIV viral replication following transmission.
2. Discuss the influence of HIV on the immune system.
3. Explain the relevance of the HIV lifecycle to HIV transmission, diagnosis and treatment and prevention strategies.

Therapies Part One & Part Two
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

2. Describe goals of antiretroviral therapies and basic treatment options
3. Recall classes of antiretroviral therapies available for the treatment of HIV infection and how they relate to the HIV lifecycle
4. Identify adverse effects and drug interactions associated with ART
Session 6: Contemporary Issues

Stigma and Discrimination

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the difference between the concepts of 'stigma' and 'discrimination' as they relate to people living with HIV or those potentially at risk
2. Recognise key factors that contribute to HIV related stigma and discrimination (including in health service delivery)

Providing and Inclusive Service

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify common mental health and wellbeing issues for newly diagnosed people and other PLHIV
2. Demonstrate increased awareness and knowledge of the issues faced by people living with and affected by HIV
# HIV for Health Professionals: An Introduction

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Working together to improve healthcare for patients

### PRESENTERS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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| **Professor Mieke van Driel**  
Deputy Head of School       | The School of Medicine  
University of Queensland |
| **Dr Joseph Debattista**    
Sexual Health, HIV & Hepatitis Coordinator | Sexual Health & HIV Service,  
Metro North Hospital & Health Service |
| **Simon Doyle-Adams**       
Clinical Nurse Consultant and Team Leader | Cairns Sexual Health Service |
| **Sara Bell**               
Clinical Nurse Consultant   | Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Department of Health, QLD |
| **Nam Nguyen**              
A/Supervising Scientist      | HIV Reference Laboratory,  
Pathology QLD |
| **Mr Adam Spinks**          
Nurse Practitioner           | Sexual Health & HIV Service,  
Department of Health, QLD |
| **Jackie Kennedy**          
HIV Public Health Nurse      | Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Department of Health, QLD |
| **Penny Marshall**          
Contact Tracer               | Metro North, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay, Central & Central West Hospital & Health Service |
| **Jamie Kuskie**            
HIV Public Health Nurse      | Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Department of Health, QLD |
| **Dr Krispin Hajkowitz**    
Infectious Disease Specialist | Infectious Diseases Unit  
Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital |
| **Dr Andrew Redmond**       
Infectious Disease Specialist | Infectious Diseases Unit  
Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital |
| **Sharna Quigley**          
Advocacy Officer             | Queensland Positive People |
| **Jesse Hooper**            
Peer Support and Communications Officer | Queensland Positive People |