

What's Being Done in Saskatoon Health Region to Reduce STIs and Bloodborne Illness?

Service Delivery

- To streamline STI testing, the Region implemented an express test option to include a blood test, along with urine sample. Urine drop off and standard service continues to be offered by drop-in and booked appointment.
- HIV testing, standard and/or point of care, is offered at each client contact in sexual health clinic, daytime outreach and needle exchange, and evening outreach when a public health nurse present in van Tuesday-Friday.
- Provide STI/BBP testing needs of youth who are residing in Kilburn and Yarrow facility.
- Provide HIV case management programming to link, engage and retain new HIV cases to early care/treatment and ongoing care.
- Increased testing sites for STIs and blood borne illness by initiating services at the Lighthouse Supported Living facility, an organization which provides emergency shelter, supported living and affordable housing for those in need in Saskatoon.
- Coordinated community needle pick up, on behalf of Needle Safe Saskatoon, in April and restored or replaced needle drop boxes in SHR.

Quality Improvement

- Initiate a partnership with Sexual Health Centre to provide complimentary and collaborative clinical services to address the diverse needs of youth and special populations.
- Initiated the development of nursing protocols and associated medical directives to enable nurses to perform specialty nursing practice within the clinical area. This is required as an alternative to Transfer of Medical Function and to align with the new Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association legislation covering Special Nursing Practices to be enforced by Dec 2016.
- Adopted a standardized approach to client chart management.
- Received recommendations from the data collected and analyzed in 2014 related to home visiting cases and contacts for implementation for 2016.
- Initiated cultural competency awareness and motivational interviewing training for front line staff.
- Implemented home visiting protocol to support staff safety.
- Transitioned to a new electronic provincial immunization data base called Panorama, whereby client risk factors were entered as an enhanced communication tool for immunization providers.
- Gained access to eHR Viewer, a provincial data base containing lab results, enabling access to information province wide for notification and contact tracing.
- Participated in the development of a provincial review of STI clinic and notification services for the purpose of generating a current and future state map, including identify areas for improvement.

Health Promotion

- Launched a social media campaign to address risk of syphilis for MSM, including posters, radio shows and email blasts on selected dating sites.
- Initiate a collaborative approach with community organizations and service providers to create a web based launch pad to direct clients to services and resources to promote sexual health.

- Conducted a one-time event teleconference with primary care providers in SHR about syphilis testing and treatment.
- Worked in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute to add the locations of free condoms and STI testing sites in SHR to the "Keep it Safe Saskatchewan (KIS-SK)" App.
- Distributed leaflet advertising the KIS-SK App and the Canadian Guidelines on STIs (STI-ITS App) in the STI medication packages distributes to primary care providers in Saskatoon.

Enhanced Surveillance and Monitoring

- Contact primary care providers on day 3 (fax) and day 7 (phone) of a confirmed case to obtain treatment and contact information to expedite follow-up and treatment.
- Delivered enhanced surveillance and contact tracing to newly reported Hepatitis C clients.
- Conduct enhanced syphilis surveillance survey to cases and contacts to learn more about the social factors impacting on transmission.

