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# Education and Resources for Persons Co-Infected with HIV and HCV

Moderator:

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# *Key Questions*

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- How prevalent is HIV/HCV co-infection?
- What are some of the unique challenges of living with HIV/HCV co-infection?
- What are the education needs of people who are co-infected?
- What support services are needed?
- How can we advocate for these services?
- What can we do in the meantime?

# *Prevalence*

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- Up to 350,000 co-infected with HIV/HCV
- 25-33% of people w/ HIV in the U.S. are coinfected with HCV
- 50-90% who acquired HIV through IDU are co-infected
- Liver failure due to HCV is a leading cause of death for people with HIV
- Up to 10% of people w/ HCV are HIV+

# Challenges

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- Dealing with either HIV or HCV is a challenge- how will the person respond to co-infection?
- Medical care more complex
- Accessing providers well versed in HIV and HCV
- Understanding entitlements
- Stigma

# *Education & Support Needs*

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- Nature of chronic illness with HIV and HCV
- Importance of medical care/monitoring
- Clear, unbiased information about treatment
- How to maintain liver health
- Counseling about alcohol & liver disease
- Counseling about reducing transmission of HIV and HCV
- Extra diligence when injecting

# *Education and Support Needs*

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- Vaccination for HAV and HBV
- Education and support regarding liver biopsy
- Education about entitlements/ access to services
- Substance use treatment
- Housing
- Nutrition Services
- Mental Health Referrals & services, esp for those considering treatment

# Advocacy

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- With co-workers, supervisors
- With other community partners
- With funders
- Promote leadership development among clients
- Educate policy makers
- Educate general community

# In the meantime...

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- Examine opportunities for integration
- Integrated prevention message
- Doesn't cost anything to refer for vaccination, screening
- Gather info about who provides treatment
- Incorporate HCV in support groups
- Refer for mental health services
- Educate about entitlements