

# BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL CARE TEAM

## Evidence-Informed for Retention in HIV Care

### INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

#### Goal of Intervention

- Improve retention in HIV care and other HIV-related health outcomes

#### Target Population

- Hispanic/Latino HIV clinic patients

#### Brief Description

The *Bilingual/Bicultural Care Team* consists of three Hispanic/Latino bilingual/bicultural care providers: a nurse practitioner, Ryan White case manager and a peer educator. The team provides HIV-positive patients with culturally and linguistically appropriate health care and other services such as an assessment of medication adherence barriers, assistance with clinic registration, acting as a liaison with health care providers, home visits, education about HIV disease progression, and referrals to community resources. Patients are also given culturally and linguistically appropriate health education and case management materials.

#### Intervention Duration

- On-going, based on patient's clinic visits and treatment plan

#### Intervention Setting

- HIV specialty clinic and patient residence, if needed

#### Deliverer

- Hispanic/Latino bilingual/bicultural nurse practitioner, case manager and peer educator

### INTERVENTION PACKAGE INFORMATION

**For intervention materials, please contact Maithe Enriquez**, University of Missouri, S327 Sinclair School of Nursing, Columbia, MO, 65211.

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## EVALUATION STUDY AND RESULTS

### Study Location Information

The original evaluation was conducted in Kansas City, Missouri.

### Recruitment Settings

HIV clinic

### Eligibility Criteria

Men and women were eligible if they were HIV-infected, self-identified as Hispanic/Latino, and had at least 1 visit at the HIV specialty clinic at the Truman Medical Center (TMC) during the 12 months before the Bilingual/Bicultural Care Team was implemented and within 12 months post-implementation.

### Study Sample

The study participants (n = 43) are characterized by the following:

- 100% Hispanic/Latino
- 79 % male, 21% female
- 2% 18-25 years old, 60% 26-39 years old, 30% 40-55 years old, 7% over 55 years
- 79% on antiretroviral therapy

### Comparison

Data from the 43 study participants during the 1-year period after the implementation of the Bilingual/Bicultural Care Team (March 2006 to March 2007) were compared to data from the same participants during the 1-year period before the implementation (March 2005 to March 2006) at the TMC.

### Relevant Outcomes Measured

- Retention in HIV care was defined as the number of scheduled and kept HIV clinic visits over a 12-month period.

### Significant Findings on Relevant Outcomes

- The mean number of scheduled and kept HIV clinic visits during a 12-month assessment period before and after the implementation of the Bilingual/Bicultural Care Team increased from 2.81 to 5.30 (t = 6.29, p < 0.05).

### Strengths

- The retention outcome was assessed over a 12-month period.

### Considerations

- There was also a rise in the use of emergency department services over the 2-year study period with more than half of the visits occurring during intervention year, possibly attributed to the rising rate of HIV complications (e.g., medication toxicities) that tend to become more prevalent over time and increased patient familiarity with the clinic's health care system.

## REFERENCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Enriquez, M., Farnan, R., Cheng, A. L., Almeida, A., Del Valle, D., Pulido-Parra, M., & Flores, G. (2008). [Impact of a bilingual/bicultural care team on HIV-related health outcomes](#). *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 19, 295-301.

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