Development of a Technology-Based Retention in Care Intervention

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Background

- Black MSM are disproportionately infected with HIV
- Retention in care is a critical challenge
- Technology-based interventions may have appeal, and be especially useful for retention
Cascade of HIV Care
Rochester Ryan White Region, 2011

From the NY State Department of Health

- Estimated HIV Infected Persons: 3,800
- Persons Living w/ Diagnosed HIV Infection: 3,100 (82% of infected)
- Cases w/any HIV Care during the year*: 2,200 (58% of infected)
- Cases w/continuous care during the year**: 2,000 (52% of infected)
- Virally suppressed (n.d. or <200/ml) at test closest to mid-year: 1,700 (46% of infected)

* Any VL or CD4 test during the year
** At least 2 tests, at least 3 months apart
Univ. of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital AIDS Center

- Largest HIV/AIDS medical provider in Rochester
- ~1100 patients enrolled at the AIDS Center
- Medical home
- AIDS Center has experienced some challenges in retaining Black MSM in care
Project Aims

Phase I:
Conduct interviews to determine barriers to care, strategies for remaining in care, and use of technology

Phase II:
Develop a prototype for a technology-based intervention to improve retention in care

Phase III:
Determine feasibility and acceptability of the prototype intervention

Strengthen collaborations among Univ. of Rochester and Brown CFARs, local HIV medical service providers, and Health Department
Collaborations

• Long-standing collaboration between Miriam Hospital, Univ. of Rochester, and Monroe County Health Department

• Establish new collaborations with Univ. of Rochester CFAR, the AIDS Center, and other HIV/AIDS medical care providers
Interviews: Eligibility

• Eligibility criteria include:
  – ≥ 18 years
  – Ever had sex with a man
  – Black race
  – Receiving care from the UR AIDS Center

• Recruit individuals who are:
  – Newly diagnosed
  – In care for ≥ 1 year and missed ≥ 2 appointments
  – Have been in care for ≥ 1 year and have attended all scheduled appointments in past year
Interviews: Procedures

- CFAR RN assists with initial recruitment
- RA screens for eligibility
- Participants complete a technology use survey
- Participants complete an in-depth interview about medical care
Progress to Date

• Administrative
  – IRB approvals
  – IAA between Univ. of Rochester and Miriam Hospital
  – Certificate of Confidentiality

• Protocol
  – Developed technology questionnaire and semi-structured interview guide
  – Coordinated with AIDS Center to establish protocol for recruitment
  – Hired and trained study staff
  – Identified a local company with experience developing technology-based health interventions

• Interviews
  – Began conducting interviews and technology use surveys
Challenges

• Coordinating among institutions and centers

• Complying with rules and oversight of all involved parties

• Ensuring the intervention complies with ethical regulations and HIPAA
Future Directions

• Test technology-based intervention in a RCT

• Build on collaborations with the Health Dept. and with medical providers to develop an intervention that addresses more points along the continuum of care
Thank you!

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• University of Rochester CFAR
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