**COE Learning Network:** Hepatitis Testing and Treatment

**Presenters:** Michael Palladini

**Date and Time:** 05/17/2023- 12 pm to 1:15 pm

**Location:**Virtual Training (on Zoom)

**Host:**University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Program and Evaluation Unit (PERU)

**Target Audience:**Centers of Excellence Leadership and Staff

**Training Objectives:**

* Define hepatitis.
* Describe the relationship between substance use and hepatitis infection, including transmission routes and risk factors.
* List strategies for harm reduction, including screening for and treating other infectious diseases (such as HIV) and addressing injection drug use behaviors.
* Describe the importance of ongoing follow-up care, including monitoring for reinfection and liver disease progression, and providing ongoing support and resources for patients.

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome, introductions, training objectives.
2. Agency History
3. Overview of viral hepatitis
   1. Transmission routes
   2. Strategies for reducing the risk of HCV transmission among people who use drugs.
4. The relationship between substance use and HCV infection
   1. Risk factors for HCV infection
5. Strategies for harm reduction
   1. The relationship between sex and drugs
   2. Hepatitis prevention strategies
6. Overview of HCV treatment
   1. Treatment options
   2. Treatment process
   3. Communicating HCV results
7. Follow-up care
   1. Considerations for care
   2. Reinfection
8. Discussion
9. Questions

**Questions:**

1. True or **False**: Hepatitis means inflammation of the kidneys.
2. Hepatitis C risk factors include: (choose all that apply)
   1. **Injecting drugs**
   2. Age 18 to 25
   3. **Being born to parents who are positive for hepatitis C**
3. **True** or False: One of the most effective harm reduction interventions for hepatitis C is the distribution of safer using supplies.
4. True or **False**: Once hepatitis is cured, individuals cannot be reinfected with the virus.
5. Screening for hepatitis C:
   1. Involves a visit to a doctor’s office.
   2. Is not necessary if you have never shared needles.
   3. Is expensive and difficult to get.
   4. All the above
   5. **None of the above**

**References:**

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022) Hepatitis C. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm#:~:text=Hepatitis%20C%20is%20a%20liver,to%20prepare%20and%20inject%20drugs.
* Harm Reduction Coalition. (n.d.). Hepatitis C. https://harmreduction.org/issues/hepatitis-c
* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2011). TIP 53: Addressing Viral Hepatitis in People With Substance Use Disorders. Retrieved April 11, 2023, from https://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-53-Addressing-Viral-Hepatitis-in-People-With-Substance-Use-Disorders/SMA11-4653