Supplement article

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Case study

Analysis of hepatitis C cascade of care in Qatar, 2017: a teaching case study

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Abstract

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment is available free of charge for all patients in Qatar. Therefore, it is critical to identify approaches that will lead to a diagnosis of chronic HCV infection earlier in the course of disease, place and retain them on treatment. These are the elements of the cascade of care framework of the global strategy to eliminate HCV. There is a need to tailor HCV screening and treatment policies to a country-specific epidemiological context to reduce HCV burden. Robust surveillance systems and data are needed to inform these policies. In this teaching case study, the trainees will learn how to explore surveillance data and measure performance in screening, diagnosing, treating and retaining HCV cases using a cascade of care framework. They will learn how to plan and design interventions to eliminate HCV. This case study is designed for the training of basic level field epidemiology trainees or any other health care workers working in public health-related fields. It can be administered in 2-3 hours. Used as adjunct training material, the case study provides the trainees with competencies in analyzing HCV data using the cascade of care framework.

How to use this case study

General instructions: this case study should be used as adjunct training material for novice epidemiology trainees to reinforce the concepts taught in prior lectures. The case study is ideally taught by a facilitator in groups of about 20 participants. Participants are to take turns reading the case study, usually a paragraph per student. The facilitator guides the discussion on possible responses to questions. The facilitator may make use of flip charts to illustrate certain points. Additional instructor's notes for facilitation are coupled with each question in the instructor's guide to aid facilitation.

Audience: this case study was developed for novice field epidemiology students. These participants are commonly health care workers working in the county departments of health whose background may be as medical doctors, nurses, environmental health officers or laboratory scientists who work in public health-related fields. Most have a health science or biology background.

Prerequisites: before using this case study, participants should have received references on hepatitis C global plans and World Health Organization (WHO) HCV screening and treatment guidelines.

Materials needed: flash drive, flip charts, markers, computers with MS Excel

Level of training and associated public health activity: Novice –

Disease control data analysis and strategy formulation.

Time required: 2-3 hours

Language: English

Case study material

- Download the case study student guide
- Request the case study facilitator guide

Competing interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

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