

CALLEN -LORDE

Given Callen-Lorde's mission of providing quality healthcare with dignity & respect to members of NYC's LGBTQ communities regardless of their ability to pay – we are committed to addressing disparities in healthcare. We believe that in order to achieve 90-90-90 for everyone, we must achieve 90-90-90 among each of the communities who we represent & serve. So, in creating our HIV Treatment Cascade for 2016, we analyzed the current state of access, retention & viral load suppression not only for our clinic at-large but also amongst & across these different populations. Analyzing our data at the population-level, empowered us to be able to create new health initiatives that are specifically catered to serve certain patient populations; namely youth & transgender individuals. Two of the primary clinic-wide initiatives that have come from/been influenced by this way of analyzing our patient data are Rapid Treatment & It's About Me.

Rapid Treatment allows patients who receive their first reactive HIV test at our clinic to choose to start on anti-retroviral therapy that day (with financial support from ADAP). We know that many folks – especially those from the communities we identified to be most impacted by unsuppressed viral loads – face barriers to returning to the clinic for multiple follow-up appointments and tests. Having the option to choose treatment immediately can help to prevent attrition of newly diagnosed patients, and can in turn reduce the viral load burden by helping folks become virally suppressed within the first month of living with HIV. In the first year of this initiative we've seen great success not only with reducing the time to viral suppression for folks who choose Rapid Treatment – but also increasing their likelihood to still be retained in HIV care a year out from diagnosis.

It's About Me is the name of a viral suppression incentive program that our care coordination team manages (and is funded through the Mt. Sinai DSRIP group). Through this initiative, patients who achieve and maintain viral load suppression (as well as adherence to both medical appointments & case management appointments) are eligible to receive a cash incentive to support them with overcoming financial barriers to continuing that achievement. Given what we found in our Ending The Epidemic analysis, we have started this program by focusing on populations who showed disparities in the Treatment Cascade (with the goal of expanding it to include more communities over time). This initiative is grounded in an understanding of the fact that this data clearly shows that we have not yet 100% identified the needs of these individuals, and gives them the opportunity to address their needs directly with these funds.

Callen-Lorde is committed to achieving 90-90-90 by 2020. To that end, we will continue to find new ways to collect & analyze data about our patients & the communities they come from. Because, we know that in order to achieve anything that involves our patients, we must ground the actions we take in their experiences. We look forward to analyzing our Treatment Cascade data for 2017, and discovering the next steps to take on this journey.

