Historical Perspective of Cohort Reviews in New York City: Key components, benefits, and challenges

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Tuberculosis Cases and Rates

Treatment Completion Rates, NYC, 1989-1991

*Data based on the NYC Bureau of TB Control Annual Reports
What happens to the TB patients you identify?

Accountability

“Every patient you start on treatment, you are responsible for their outcome.”

“I see how many patients you diagnosed last year. How many of them did you cure?”

Karel Styblo during a visit to New York City, 1993

Cohort Review Process

• TB Program Director reviews every counted case
• Case managers present cases – supervisors, managers, clinicians also contribute
• Last month we had 4 cohort review sessions (one for each region) each lasting 3 to 4 hours depending on number of cases
• Quarterly cases ranged from 26 (Bronx) to 62 (Queens)
Cohort Review Process (cont’d)

• Assures consistency with global principles of TB control
• Sets the standard for accountability for case management and follow-up of patients and their contacts
• Immediate linkage of benchmarks to local and national objectives

Historical Treatment Completion Rates, NYC, 1989-2005

Evolution of Cohort Reviews in New York City

• Early reviews focused on TB treatment completion
• Later focus expanded to evaluation and treatment of contacts for LTBI
• More recently, we have expanded focus to HIV testing, including HIV testing of contacts
• This year we aligned our cohort indicators with CDC’s NTIP indicators to emphasize best practices
Conclusion: Benefits of the Cohort Review

- The cohort review is the NYC TB Bureau’s principal method of program monitoring and evaluation
  - Ensures accountability
  - Improves the quality of data
  - Provides a forum to discuss difficult questions
  - Staff are publicly praised for achievements
  - Also a forum for highlighting the TB program’s strategic goals and objectives

Cohort Review Process

Limitations

- May be too late to make interventions
- Can be time consuming, thus limiting depth of certain discussions

Conclusion: Applications of the Cohort Review

- Customizable to context
- Can be applied in both high TB incidence and low TB incidence areas
- Can be applied to other diseases beyond TB
  - Used for HIV/AIDS patients in Malawi* and in NYC

*Harries et al. BMJ 2004; 329:1163-1166