Unlike some other developed countries, people living with HIV (PLWHIV) in Australia can select how they access care. Patients can elect to be managed by ‘s100 HIV-therapy prescribing’ General Practitioners (s100 GPs), Sexual Health Physicians (SHPs), Hospital-Based Physicians (HBPs), or a combination of these options. Participants who completed the survey were:

- 26 of 835 invited s100 GPs (3%)
- 24 of 174 invited SHPs (13%)
- 6 of 54 invited HBPs (11%)

Sample size for HBPs was low and results should be interpreted with caution. The survey was conducted between October and November 2017 by Kantar Health, and results analysed between November 2017 and January 2018.

The survey questions focused on patient profile, testing triggers, treatment selection and initiation, alignment with management guidelines, and unmet needs. It explored the strengths and weaknesses of the Australian model of care, by investigating the practices and challenges in HIV-infection management for each practitioner specialty group. Participants who completed the survey were:

- 26 of 835 invited s100 GPs (3%)
- 24 of 174 invited SHPs (13%)
- 6 of 54 invited HBPs (11%)

Results

- s100 GPs reported a higher level of discomfort in initiating HIV treatment on the day of diagnosis if requested by the patient, compared with SHPs
- A lack of information regarding the patient profile was the main barrier for initiating treatment on the day of diagnosis (reported by 30% of all practitioners)
- Patients can elect to be managed by ‘s100 HIV-therapy prescribing’ General Practitioners (s100 GPs), Sexual Health Physicians (SHPs), Hospital-Based Physicians (HBPs), or a combination of these options.

Challenges and Unmet Needs

- s100 GPs reported considerably lower satisfaction with current HIV treatment guidelines in contrast with SHPs and HBPs.
- s100 GPs were also substantially less likely to choose integrase-based therapies; Triumeq® compared with SHPs (46% very satisfied vs. 83%, respectively).
- A greater focus on improving mental health services for PLWHIV in Australia is also recommended.

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