Effect of Online Education on Physician Knowledge and Confidence Regarding the Impact of Stigma has on Health Outcomes in People Living with HIV

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BACKGROUND

People living with HIV (PLWHIV) experience high levels of stigma which may manifest as self-stigma, perceived stigma, or external enacted stigma. Stigma is also compounded by experiencing health inequity. Experiencing stigma has been found to impact PLWHIV antiretroviral adherence, virological failure, and morbidity, and mortality. We assessed whether an independent medical education activity could improve the knowledge and confidence of HIV physicians and public health and preventive medicine specialists (PH/PMs) regarding the impact that stigma has for PLWHIV and the association between stigma and other negative health outcomes.

METHODS

A 30-minute in depth round table discussion between 3 leading experts in the management of PLWHIV. The activity was launched in 4/6/2021 and data collected from 4/6/2021 to 10/14/2021.

PRE-ASSESSMENT

OUTCOMES

PRE-ASSESSMENT

POST-ASSESSMENT

CONCLUSIONS

• Online medical education significantly improved physician knowledge regarding the types of stigma that PLWHIV experience and the consequences of stigma on PLWHIV’s mental health.

• Additionally, physicians who participated in the education experienced an increase in their confidence to assess stigma and the consequences of stigma for their patients living with HIV.

• These knowledge and confidence gains have important implications for physicians who manage patients with HIV so they can advance their understanding regarding the burden that stigma can exert on PLWHIV’s overall health, mental health, presence of comorbidities and adherence to antiretroviral therapy.

REFERENCES

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