

TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF HEPATITIS C (HCV) IN PAKISTAN 'MOVING BEYOND THE PILL'

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DESCRIPTION

Why Community Engagement (CE)?

Community based interventions should be focused & strengthened through CE to break the cycle of HCV transmission & build synergies between the social and clinical arm

It will provide person-centred approach to HCV epidemic targeting PREVENTION and ELIMINATION

SALT is a well tested model for CE¹

S Stimulate, Support, Strength
A Appreciate
L Listen, Learn, Link
T Transfer, Team

WHY SALT?

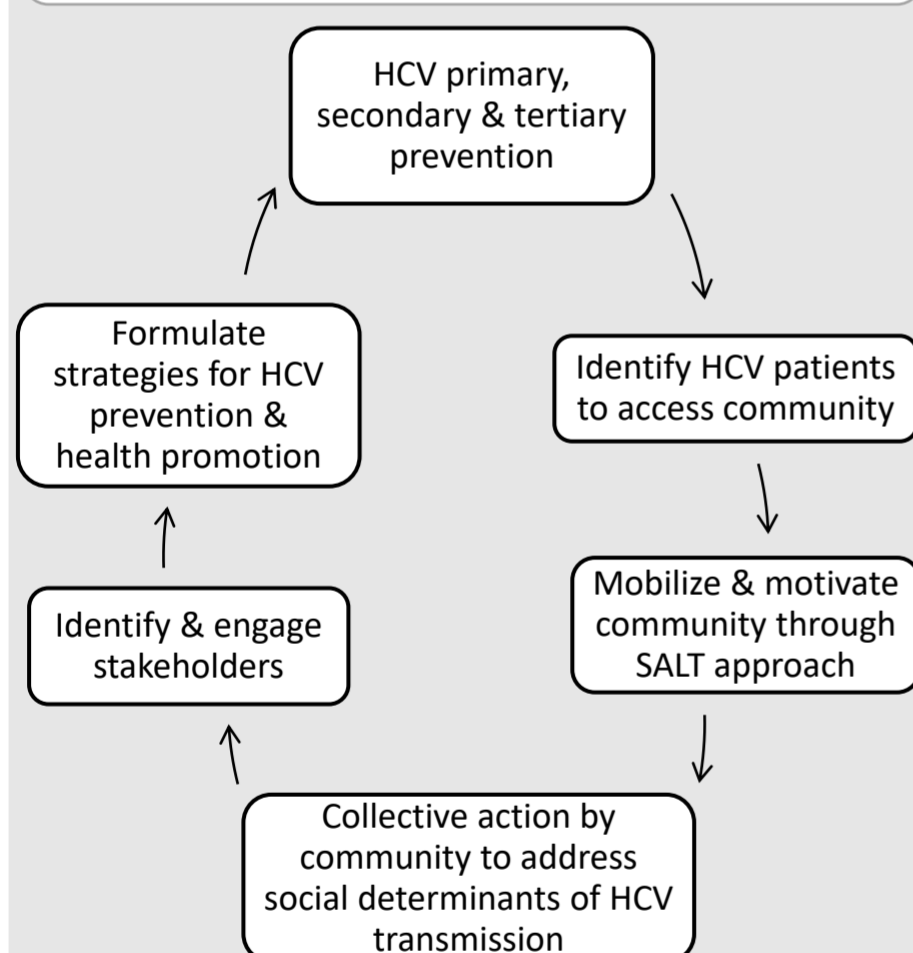
- Motivates and mobilizes communities without external influences (e.g. incentives)
- Builds ownership by the community
- Promotes community empowerment
- Leads to sustainable and innovative solutions by the community

What we want to demonstrate?

- Effective and sustainable social models of health
- Effectiveness of SALT approach to operationalize family/community engagement for better health

CE LINKING CLINICAL & SOCIAL ARM

Road Map



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

HCV & Pakistan

- 6th most populous country in world (est. 200 m)
- HCV dubbed as **AIDS of Pakistan**²
- 2nd highest prevalence globally³
 - Adult Viremia – 5.8%
 - Genotype 3 - 79% cases

Risk Factors for Spread of HCV Infection in Pakistan



Poor infection control practices in health care settings (> 50% cause)



Re-use of syringes & needles



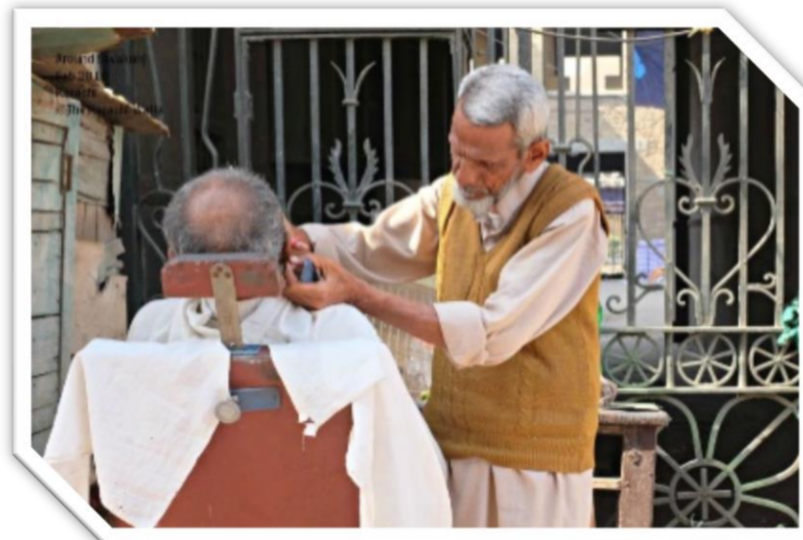
Use of poorly sterilized surgical & dental equipment



Transfusion of poorly screened blood



Razor sharing by barbers & circumcision with re-used blades



Roadside barber

CE for HCV Public Health Impact

CE draws attention to the social determinants of HCV

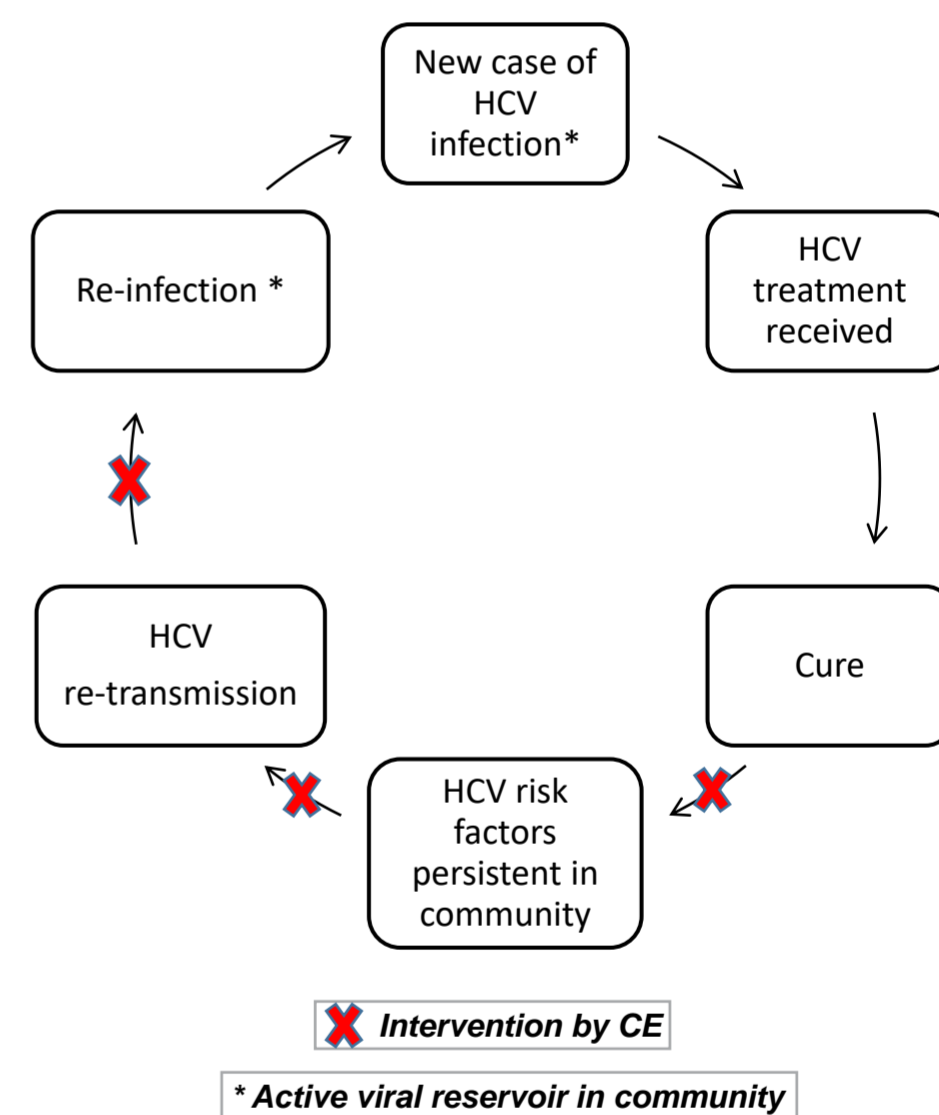
HCV becomes an issue of public concern

Impacts HCV policy making

WHY IS THIS INNOVATIVE?

- Personalized strategy towards disease control, prevention and promotion
- Enables multiple solutions for each community
- Allows documentation of different strategies to create a bank of solutions
- Very cost effective, draws on strengths from community resources
- Creates a local network of leaders to mobilize change
- Brings about organic community awareness through workshops and activities rather than information overload
- Lessons learned from one site can be applied to another setting with similar social determinants of health

ROLE OF CE IN BREAKING THE HCV VIRAL TRANSMISSION CYCLE



CONCLUSIONS

- CE is built on the foundation of the community being able to recognize their ability to bring about change
- CE through SALT addresses the root cause for the spread of HCV rather than just treating the disease and its symptoms
- CE creates an environment that empowers the community to solves issues related to their community and through trial and error innovate sustainable solutions
- CE drives the clinical and public health goals to reduce disease incidence and prevalence
- The SALT model can be scaled-up at a national level, contributing to SDGs to eliminate HCV by 2030
- Creates long-term impact versus short-term results

REFERENCES

1. URL <http://www.communitylifecompetence.org/> Date last accessed: Sept 21st '17
2. Khabir Ahmad. Pakistan: a cirrhotic state? Lancet, 2004
3. Erin Gower et al. Global epidemiology and genotype distribution of the hepatitis. Journal of Hepatology 2014

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None to declare

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Poor hospital waste disposal management