



Editorial Board

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IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- ✧ Agenda of 98th ACA Meetingpage 13
- ✧ A Summary of the 43rd CFA Meeting page 14-15
- ✧ Training Workshops for NGO Staff - Basic and Advanced ... page 16

~ Calendar ~

98th ACA Meeting
7 April 2017

Agenda of 98th ACA Meeting

Date : 7 April 2017 (Friday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Conference Room, Central Health Education Unit, DH
7/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ Follow up of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)
- ◆ HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2016
- ◆ World AIDS Campaign 2016 in Hong Kong

A Summary of the 43rd CFA Meeting held on 7 March 2017

Outbreak of acute hepatitis A infection among HIV infected MSM in Hong Kong

Dr Bonnie WONG of DH presented an unusual upsurge of acute hepatitis A (HAV) infection affecting HIV positive MSM. Investigation found that from September 2015 to 17 February 2017, a total of 29 MSM cases aged from 22 to 51 years (median: 33 years) were diagnosed to have HAV infection. 23 were HIV positive attending the three public HIV clinics (ITC, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital). All recovered with no fatality. All except two had no previous history of vaccination.

Further epidemiological investigations did not suggest a common food nor water source of infection. However, **close person-to-person contact** among MSM leading to **faecal-oral transmission** probably accounted for it. It was very likely that transmission of HAV has spread beyond HIV-positive MSM, and have entered the HIV-negative MSM community.

CHP has already stepped up health education among the

MSM community via non-government organisations (NGOs). **A one-off HAV vaccination programme** was launched since 3 February 2017. HIV positive MSM followed up at the three public HIV clinics and current MSM attendees of the two DH's male Social Hygiene Clinics (Wan Chai and Yau Ma Tei) with negative or unknown HAV immune status are offered two doses of free HAV vaccines. The two doses will be given at least six months apart, and up to 18 months.

Dr WONG informed members that CHP would keep close monitoring of the situation. A review on HAV vaccination would be conducted in the coming meeting of Scientific Committee in the near future.

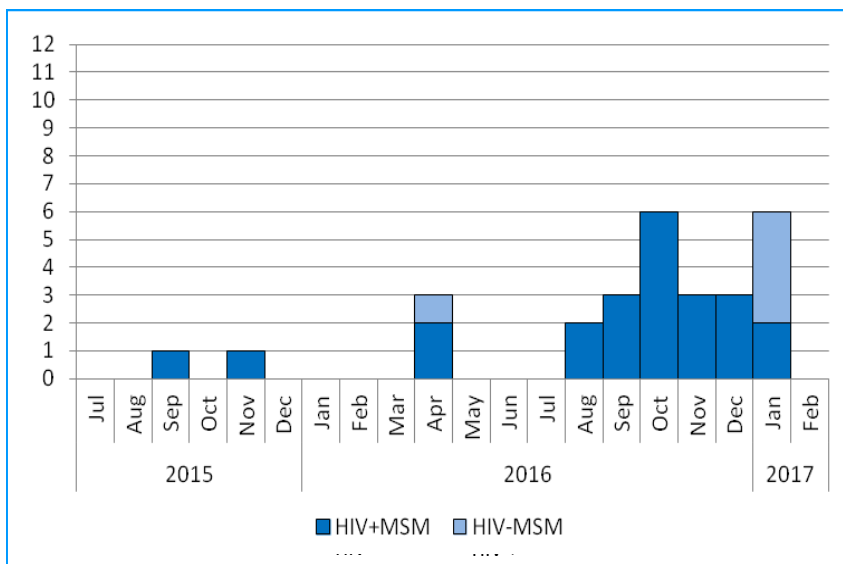


Figure 1 - Hepatitis A cases in known MSM +/- HIV, September 2015 to 2017 (as of February 2017)

Results of Street Addict Survey 2016

Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) presented the Street Addict Survey (SAS) 2016. A total of 686 drug users recruited, 83.4% (572/686) were currently injecting drugs. Around 90% were Chinese male. Among the current injecting drug users (IDU), 16.1% (92/572) share needles in the last one month, with >30% (29/92) shared with people outside their usual network. 76.4% (437/572) have received HIV test in the past one year and knew the results. Among the 336 current IDU who had regular sex partners, 57.7% (194/336) used condoms during last sex. Most subjects did not report having received free needles in the past one year. DH informed members that the results of SAS would be incorporated into the HARiS 2016 (IDU) and its results will be released later this year.

Update on HIV situation and MSM HIV prevention programme in 2016

DH updated CFA on the HIV situation of 2016. In summary, the newly reported cases had slightly dropped from 725 in 2015 to 692 in 2016. At least 61.3% were MSM. Regarding HIV self-testing, members commented that self-testing users needed to be mentally well prepared to perform the test independently and to face the possible positive result, which might subsequently induce suicidal behaviour. They opined that self-testing without proper counselling might induce revenge and self-harm. Some members complained that their clients were refused non-occupational PEP (nPEP) in Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department.

Progress of PRiSM 2017, HARiS 2017 and Internal Audit for VCT services by NGO

DH reported the commencement of PRiSM 2017 from April 2017 and sought NGO's assistance for subject recruitment and urine collection. HARiS 2017 targeting sex worker clients (April to June), female sex workers and injecting drug users (June to August) would also be performed. NGOs were also reminded to submit internal audit records after end of March 2017.

Other issues

Members discussed about the ACA Strategies, the opinions collected during consultations, and approval of projects by ATF during the meeting. DH welcomed their opinions and would revert them to the relevant parties.

Training Workshops for NGO Staff - Basic and Advanced

Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) of the Department of Health will organise a series of training workshops for NGO Staff. These workshops will be conducted in Cantonese.

(A) Training Workshop for NGO Staff - Basic Knowledge on HIV/AIDS & STIs

Date & Time	Topic
Session 1 9 May 2017 (Tuesday) 14:00 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Brief introduction on HK AIDS situation & AIDS programme ◆ Basic Knowledge on HIV & AIDS ◆ Introduction to out-patient HIV clinical service in Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre ◆ Basic knowledge on STIs ◆ Introduction to Social Hygiene Service
Session 2 18 May 2017 (Thursday) 14:00 – 17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Special consideration for selected populations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex Workers, including compensated dating ▪ VCT and counselling for MSM ▪ MSM & Chem Sex ◆ <i>Special consideration for selected populations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management and care of PLHIV: from newly diagnosed to long-term care ▪ Ethnic minorities

(B) Training Workshop for NGO Staff - Advanced Course

Date & Time	Topic
13 June 2017 (Tuesday) 14:00 - 17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction on PrEP and PEP for HIV, new development worldwide and in HK ◆ Introduction to Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C and HIV/HCV co-infection ◆ Substance abuse and HIV

Venue : RRC, 2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Deadline of application : 2 May 2017 (Tuesday).

For application and enquiries, please contact Ms Rebecca HUNG at 3143 7200.