



Effective Health Care Addiction Treatment for HIV and Low Income Populations Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Addiction treatment for HIV and low income populations is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.
- Addiction treatment for HIV and low income populations could be an important topic for new research.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator would like to know the most effective treatments for various addictions among HIV and low income populations. Specifically mentioned are nicotine, alcohol, and methamphetamine addictions.

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Population(s): Urban poor, HIV/AIDS patients

Intervention(s): Pharmacological, behavioral, and other interventions for a variety of addictions, including nicotine, alcohol, and methamphetamine

Comparator(s): Above interventions compared to each other

Outcome(s): Reduced use of addictive drugs; reduced physical abuse of family members or cohabitants.

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. What is the best way to deal with a variety of addictions, including nicotine, alcohol, and methamphetamine?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Very few studies have been conducted on the comparative effectiveness of different interventions for addiction treatment in low-income populations or in individuals with HIV. Therefore, this topic is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time

Importance of New Research

- 2008 guidance from the US Public Health Service reports that patients with HIV are more likely to smoke, have higher morbidity, and have lower quality of life compared to non-smokers. Similarly, patients with low socioeconomic status are more likely to smoke and have limited access to effective treatment. It remains unclear whether these populations respond differently to addiction treatment interventions than other groups or have better outcomes from one intervention versus another, and new research is needed in order to bring clarity to these questions.

Research Gaps

- The 2008 US Public Health Service report identified many topics regarding HIV-positive and low SES smokers that require additional research, including the effectiveness of and compliance with medications and counseling/behavioral interventions, including tailored interventions, and the effectiveness of novel treatment delivery settings (e.g., pharmacy-based, community-based, worksite).
- There is limited evidence in HIV populations and low income populations that addresses the comparative effectiveness question of whether these groups respond differently to nicotine, alcohol, and methamphetamine addiction treatment than other groups or have better outcomes from one intervention versus another.