

Morehouse School of Medicine Receives Gilead Focus Grant to Increase HIV Testing

With the help of the Gilead Focus Grant, Morehouse School of Medicine has a goal to increase current HIV testing rates to 67% up from 4%, across both satellite sites through an opt-out, integrated, and routine screening approach. MSM's distinction in Georgia and the medical community positions the institution as a key influencer in their ability to shape and influence the HIV and HCV screening habits of future caregivers for those most vulnerable to HIV and co-morbidities.

It is anticipated that from the 9,375 that are offered testing, at least 66% (6,250) will accept the offer. The team projects a seropositivity of 1% based on the high-prevalence areas of both satellite locations, and intends to refer positive patients in-house for treatment.

Birth-cohort HCV offers and screening will be similarly integrated into the intake process. The team projects to screen 50% (2,500) of all patients born between 1945 and 1965 for HCV utilizing conventional serum. Electronic health record (EHR) modifications, policy changes that include standing order and medical authorization modification, and provider training will drive implementation of the program and support a sustained effort.

As a FOCUS deliverable, the MSM team will also employ dual mechanisms to educate resident and student learners as well as existing and established physicians on closing the gap between existing clinical practice and current HIV screening recommendations.

MSM has an extensive Community Provider Network (CPN) that will allow the team to access providers that routinely care for the medically underserved. The program will support the development of Continuing Medical Education Credits and training workshops for members of the CPN, and will also integrate residency and medical student education into the Culture, Respect, Assess/Affirm, Sensitivity, and Humility ("CRASH") training model to help educate future providers on the federal guidelines and real-world applications.

Project Leaders and Champions: Michelle Nichols, MD, MS, Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs and Kenya Davis, JD, MDiv, Project Manager

Quick Facts:

Anticipated HIV tests: 6,250

Anticipated HIV offers: 9,375

Anticipated HIV positives: 1%

Anticipated HIV linkage to care: 95%

Anticipated HCV tests: 2,500