Ch@tspace - a novel patient internet forum for users of a large, multi-ethnic HIV clinic

T.Welz, S.Lynch, B.Nathan, S.Lockyer, K. Adegbite, P. Clift, R.Blakeborough

Dept. Sexual Health and HIV, Caldecot Clinic, Kings College Hospital NHS Trust, London
The Concept

• Stigma is a barrier to HIV treatment and support
• Causes psychological distress & preventable HIV-related deaths
• We have created an anonymous, internet chat-forum (www.mychatspace.net) for HIV patients attending the Caldecot Clinic
• Patients can communicate with peers in groups of their choice: Ch@t Africa, Ch@t Afrique, Ch@t Rainbow, Ch@t Straight, Ch@t Caribbean, Ch@t Amharic...

How it works

Registration
• Patients register via the clinic, choose groups and pseudonym

Oversight
• Nominated doctor, nurse, Health Advisor and Patient Representative – regular meetings
• Patient volunteers trained as group moderators
• Moderators refer inappropriate postings to Health Advisors

Data protection and confidentiality
• Website design neutral with no reference to HIV or NHS
• Approval from Caldicott Guardian and the Trust Data Protection Officer
• No patient identifiable data stored on server
• Trust Legal Department involved in user agreements
Ch@t Amharic

Clinic communication: Infosp@ce

**Evening Clinic**

Does everybody know that on Wednesdays there is a nurse led bloods only clinic at CC that runs in the evening so you can go after work? They can’t do anything else except bloods for people they think are ‘stable’.

Call reception to make an appointment. The clinic always seems to run on or ahead of time, so not much waiting around thank goodness. 020 3999 5000

> 10 reads

**PEP**

For those of you who have negative partners... did you know about Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)?

PEP is a treatment that an HIV negative person can take that may stop them becoming infected with HIV, soon after they have been exposed, for example if their partner is HIV Positive and the condom splits during sex.
Unique features

• Local – ‘Clinic Community’
• Moderated and responsive – Health Advisors & moderators address misconceptions
• Users can request to meet
• World first HIV forum for Amharic speakers
• Easy to roll out to other clinics
• User involvement in clinic – volunteering, feedback on service etc.

ch@tspace
A NEW INTERNET CHATGROUP ONLY FOR CALDECOT USERS

Thanks to all staff and patients involved!

Want to chat to or meet like-minded people but don’t know how?
Why not sign up to ch@tspace?
It’s anonymous, private and free.
Ask you doctor or nurse or pick up a form to register.

www.mychatspace.net