The Tulane School of Medicine Student-Run Tuberculosis (TB) Program provides TB testing and flu and hepatitis vaccinations at six sites, located in homeless shelters and rehabilitation facilities in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The program was created and is operated entirely by medical students.

Program Mission

- Provide evidence-based screening and testing for TB in high-risk populations.
- Provide connections to higher care when indicated.
- Allow individuals to maintain residence in the facilities served.

Program Funding

- Largely grant-funded.
- Limited financial and administrative support from Tulane University.
- Procedural support from Tulane Student Clinic Council.
- Hepatitis A and B vaccines from the New Orleans Department of Health.
- Blood collection supplies and T-SPOT testing from the Louisiana Department of Health.

Program Setup

Operations

- Standardized, evidence-based protocols and screening questionnaires.
- Placement and interpretation of tuberculosis skin tests (TSTs).
- Clinical volunteer and leadership opportunities.
- Closed-loop referral system with Wetmore Clinic.
- Hepatitis A and B vaccines and seasonal influenza vaccines.
- T-SPOT (interferon gamma release assay) as a confirmatory test.

Impact

- From January 2017-December 2018, 3,730 patients were seen for TB risk evaluation and testing.
- 3,413 TSTs placed.
- 650 flu vaccinations given.
- 65 hepatitis vaccinations given (program started August 2018).
- 258 patients referred to higher care.
- 900 hours of clinic and 863 volunteer shifts yearly.

Conclusions

- The Tulane School of Medicine Student-Run TB Program model is a broad-reaching initiative to provide effective TB screening, vaccinations, and referrals to higher care.
- This model may be useful to other organizations who aim to develop and implement similar initiatives.

Future Directions

- Expansion to include all homeless shelters and rehabilitation facilities in New Orleans.
- Expansion of T-SPOT program.
- Increase availability of vaccinations.
- Evaluate and improve follow-up rates.

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