

HarborPath Efficient, Centralized Portal Access to HIV Medication Significantly Improves Biologic Outcomes for the Uninsured

University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita: Donna E. Sweet
HarborPath: JoEllen Amick, Ken Trogdon, DeAnne Rease, Robert McEwan / University of Alabama at Birmingham: Ranjith Kasanagottu, Ashutosh Tamhane, Michael Mugavero, Will Rutland, James L. Raper, Anne Zinski

PUBLIC HEALTH QUESTION

Can a centralized portal for medication access improve adherence for uninsured patients?

OBJECTIVE

To improve ART adherence rates of uninsured persons with HIV.

METHODS

Through partnering with clinics in the U.S., HarborPath is able to provide the full regimen of HIV medications to the uninsured through use of a streamlined, online portal process. Donated medications are applied for online on behalf of the patient, and after a brief approval process, are mailed in approximately 48 hours. This significantly shortens the patient's wait-time to obtain treatment, and due to ease of the qualification and online application process, may increase adherence. Effect of participation in the program was assessed by comparing VL suppression (<200 copies/mL) at baseline versus follow up after 4 weeks (but within a year) after enrollment.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Participants
 must have HIV
- Participants must have been in HIV primary care at University of Alabama at Birmingham 1917 clinic
- Participants were uninsured at time of enrollment with HarborPath

DISCLOSURE

Analyses for this investigation were performed as a student-faculty collaboration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with no personal or financial relationship with HarborPath. This evaluation was approved by the University of Alabama at Birmingham institutional review board. JoEllen Amick, Ken Trogdon, DeAnne Rease and Robert McEwan authors are employees of HarborPath; Donna E. Sweet, MD and Michael Mugavero, MD serve on the HarborPath board of directors

PROCESS



ONLINE PAP APPLICATION Log onto the HarborPath portal via www.harborpath.org

- Healthcare professionals enter patient eligibility data once into single application to access multiple medications.
- Site prompts for eligibility data and documentation.

2

ELIGIBILITY HarborPath portal system

- Processes and provides immediate notification of program eligibility.
- Auto-populates application fields and generates hard copy for patient and healthcare provider signatures.

QUICK ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION

For multiple participating companies, HarborPath provides immediate notification of program eligibility.

DOCUMENTATION AND PORTAL TRACKING

- Healthcare professionals upload or fax eligibility documentation and medication script.
- Healthcare professionals can log in to the portal to view the status of an application or shipment.



PHARMACY SERVICES

All medications are shipped directly to the patient or healthcare facility.



MEDICATION ADHERENCE

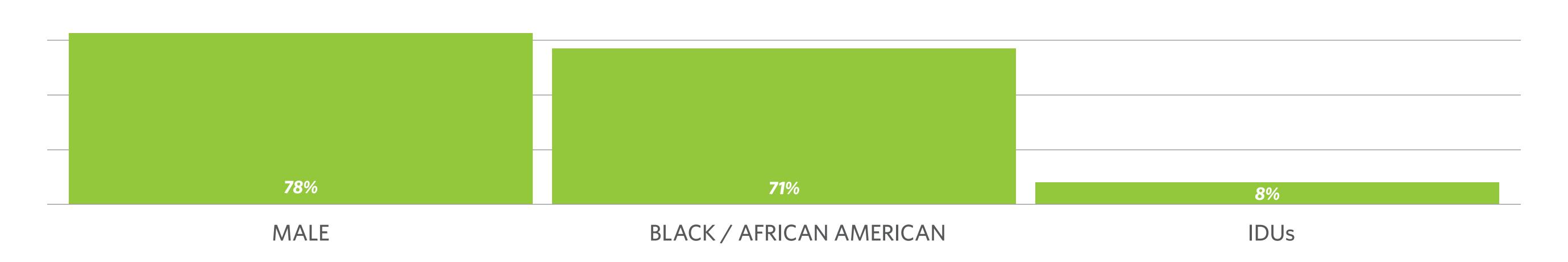
 Online refills, IVR and personal customer service help healthcare professionals provide prompt refills.

PROMOTE PATIENT ADHERENCE

Real-time customer service, IVR and online refills assist healthcare professionals with prompt refills and proactive follow-up, promoting patient regimen adherence.

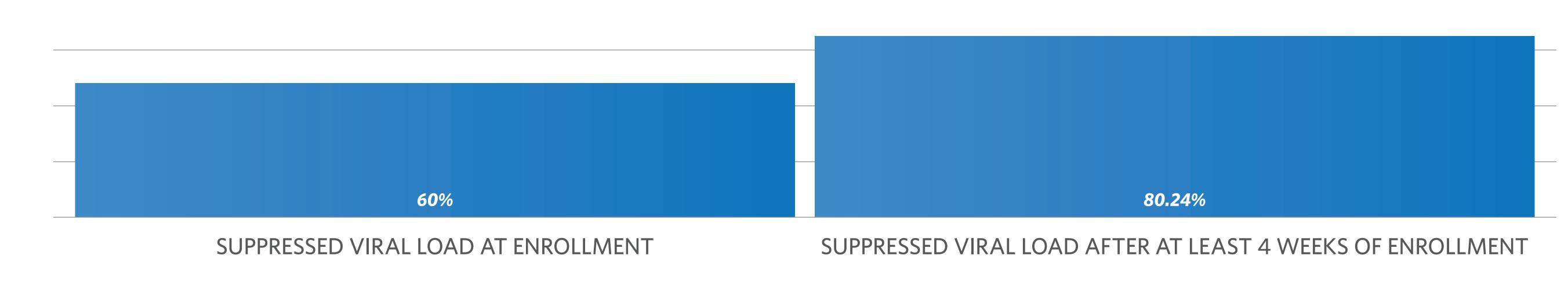
RESULTS

A total of 594 patients with a mean age of 39 years were approved for the HarborPath program at partnering academic institution University of Alabama at Birmingham from January 2013 - January 2015.



Median time from application to program approval was 1.5 days, and time from application to medication distribution was 4.0 days. Five percent of medications were shipped directly to patients and 95% were shipped to the clinic.

Of the 495 patients for whom both baseline and follow up viral load were available:



(p<.001, up to 1 year follow-up). Viral load suppression increased significantly from baseline.

CONCLUSIONS

Improved efficiency in access to HIV medication therapy provides clinically significant outcome results for uninsured patients. The HarborPath model provides a solution for reducing HIV transmission rates and improving patient outcome by effectively eliminating barriers to treatment and providing ease of therapy access for the uninsured.

FURTHER INFORMATION

HarborPath www.HarborPath.org

info@harborpath.org (855) 300-8916

