

Feasibility and Acceptability
of Hepatitis C Virus Counseling
and Rapid Testing in a
Criminal Justice Setting;
Preliminary Results

Curt G. Beckwith, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine

Miriam Hospital/Brown University

Hepatitis C in Criminal Justice Populations

- HCV prevalence (Larney et al):
 - Pooled prevalence rates among detainees: 26% (CI 23-29%)
 - History of IDU: 64% (CI 58-70%)
- Hepatitis C testing:
 - Based on known risk factors or medical conditions
 - CDC (1998)
 - Federal Bureau of Prisons 2012
 - Approach to HCV testing is changing
 - CDC birth cohort testing recommendations
 - Update to the 2004 US Preventive Task Force Recommendations (*Annals of Int Med* Nov 27 2012)

Study Objectives

- To investigate:
 - The feasibility of rapid HCV testing in a correctional facility
 - The usefulness of a pre-test educational video
 - Will persons diagnosed with chronic HCV infection link to a community healthcare provider for care after release?

Study site

- Rhode Island Department of Corrections
- Combined jail/prison campus
- 17,000 intakes per year
- Minimum security and women's facility

- Macalino et al (*AJPH* 2004)
HCV prevalence 1998-2000: **23.1 %**



HCV pre-test video



"Hep C is spread by blood that has the hep C virus in it."



"Are there other ways you can get Hep C?"



"I had no idea I was infected with Hep C. I felt fine."



"About 1 in 7 people get rid of the virus on their own, without treatment."



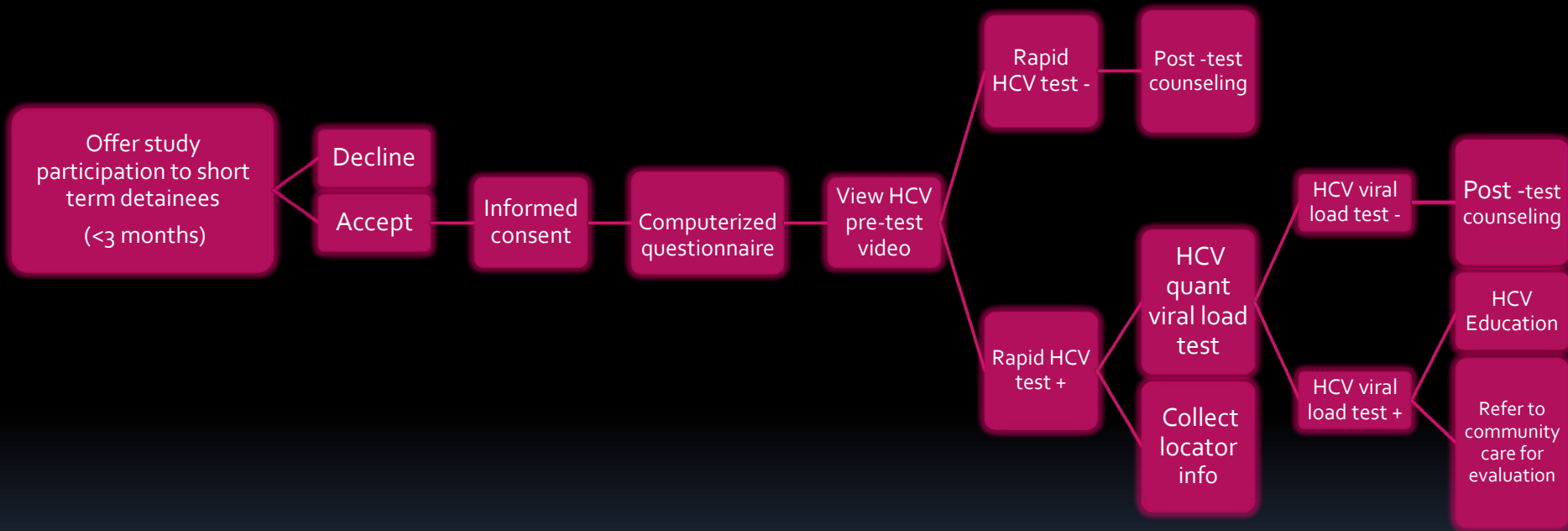
"We take the drop of blood and put it in the test."



"Stop doing stuff to hurt your liver. Stop shooting drugs. Stop drinking alcohol. Get treatment for your addiction."

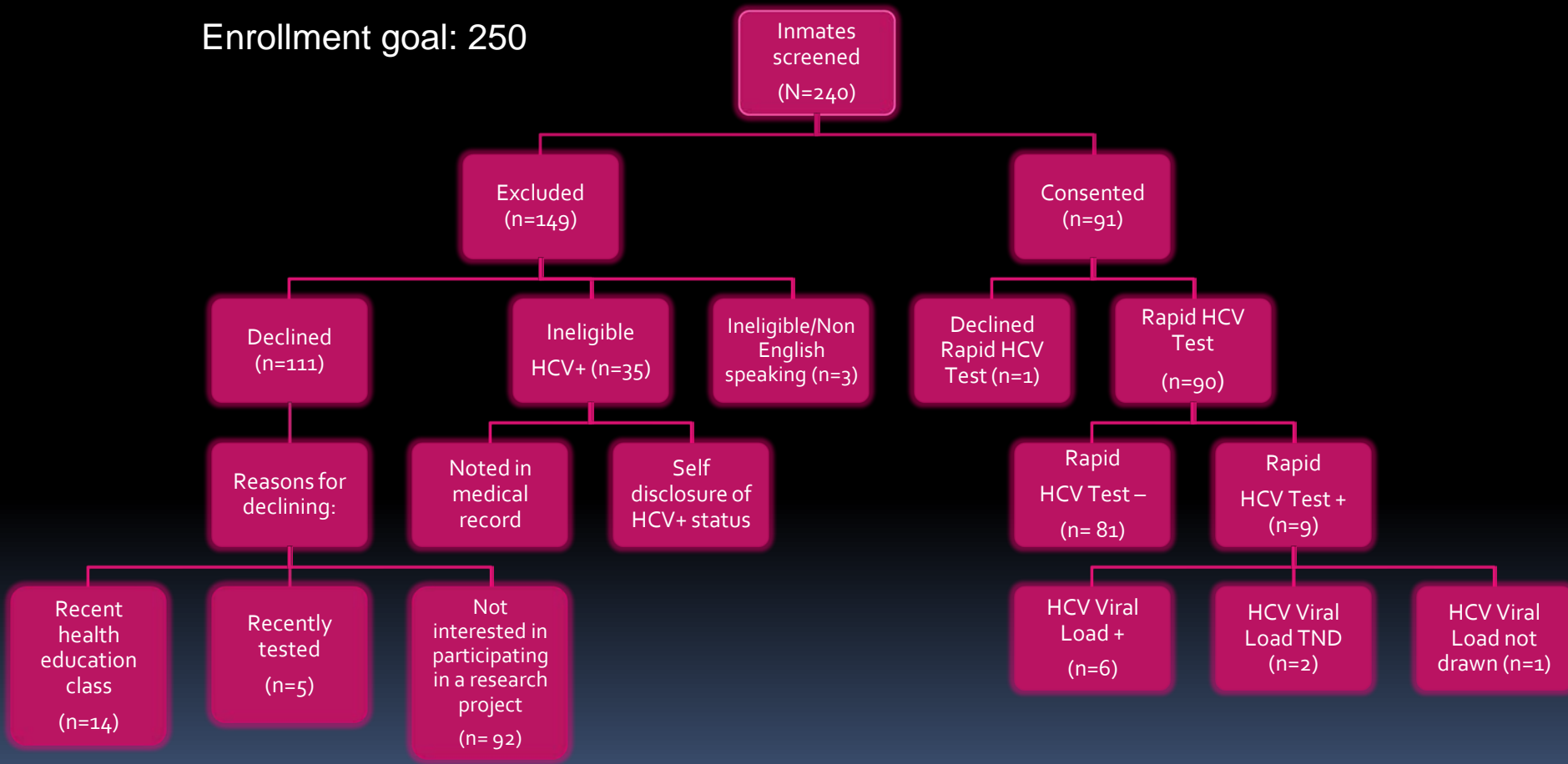
Development of video
supported by Gilead Sciences, Inc

Study algorithm



Preliminary Results

Enrollment goal: 250



Preliminary Results

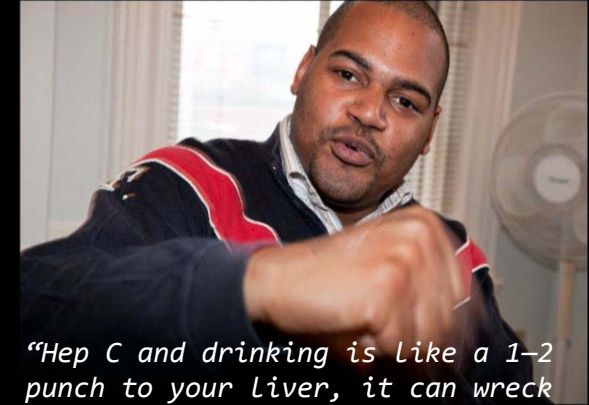
Positive Rapid Test	Viral Load Test Results	Referral for Care	Presented for Appointment
1	24,850	Yes	No
2	1,600,000	Yes	Yes
3	266	Yes	No
4	347,063	Pending; Out of State Referral	N/A
5	147,103	Yes	Pending
6	5,712,416	Yes	Still incarcerated
7	Undetectable	No	N/A
8	Undetectable	No	N/A
9	Released following day; HCV PCR not drawn	Yes	No

Next steps...

- Complete the feasibility & acceptability study
 - Assessment of video
 - Prevalence of persons with newly diagnosed HCV
 - Evaluate linkage to community HIV care
- Analyze predictors of being newly diagnosed with HCV
- Cost analysis of rapid HCV testing in correctional facilities
- Develop sustainable HCV testing program



"I've heard of Hep C but I don't really know much about it."



"Hep C and drinking is like a 1-2 punch to your liver, it can wreck your liver."

HCV pre-test video is available....

<http://www.prisonerhealth.org/>



"Most people who are infected with Hep C, don't even have any symptoms."



"If the first test that looks for antibodies is positive, you need to have a second test—the viral load test."

Acknowledgements

- Co-PIs:

- Irene Kuo, PhD
- Ann Kurth, PhD



- Rhode Island Department of Corrections

- R01DA030747

