

# A Disappearing Diagnosis

the tracking problem of perinatal  
Hepatitis C exposure

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# Disclosures and Objectives

**Nothing to disclose**

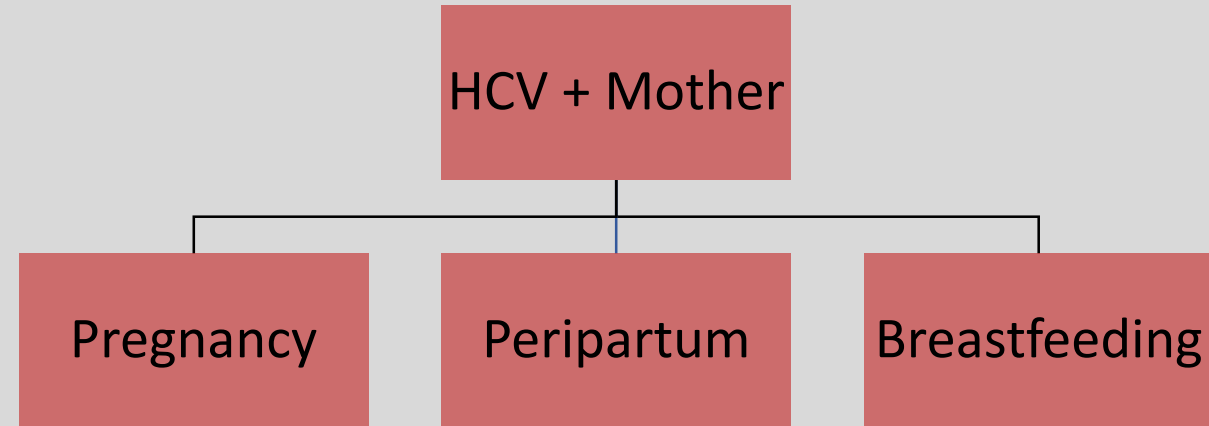
## **Objectives**

1. Review basics of perinatal hepatitis C
2. Understand the challenges of delayed screening for vertical transmission
3. Provide an example of a multi-faceted approach to improve screening for children with HCV exposure

# An Introduction to Perinatal Hepatitis C

## Quick Facts

- HCV is associated with IV drug use
- Increasing with opioid epidemic
- 5-10% vertical transmission
- Early onset liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, HCC



# Problem

**Guidelines:** screen by antibody testing at 18 months

**Reality:** the diagnosis is inconsistently carried forward after birth. Children with documented exposure to HCV are not being screened.

**Baby with HCV exposure**

**Exposure Documented**

**Track diagnosis**

**Retain in Care**

**Test HCV at 18 mo**

+ test?

Confirmation with PCR, functional monitoring and HCV treatment

# QI Project Goals:

**Baby with  
HCV exposure**

**Exposure Documented**

**Track diagnosis**

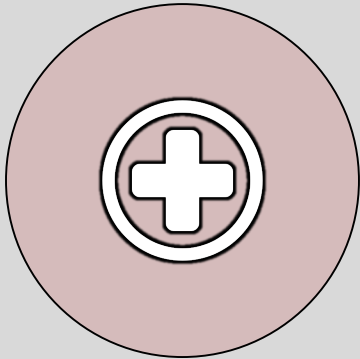
**Retain in Care**

**Test HCV at 18 mo**

**1. Increase Problem List utilization by newborn providers**

**2. Create an automated reminder for screening**

# Methods:



Add Health  
Maintenance Item



Education/Awareness



Data



# Results: Raising Awareness



## Who?

Medical Directors

- Inpatient &
- Outpatient
- Providers



## What?

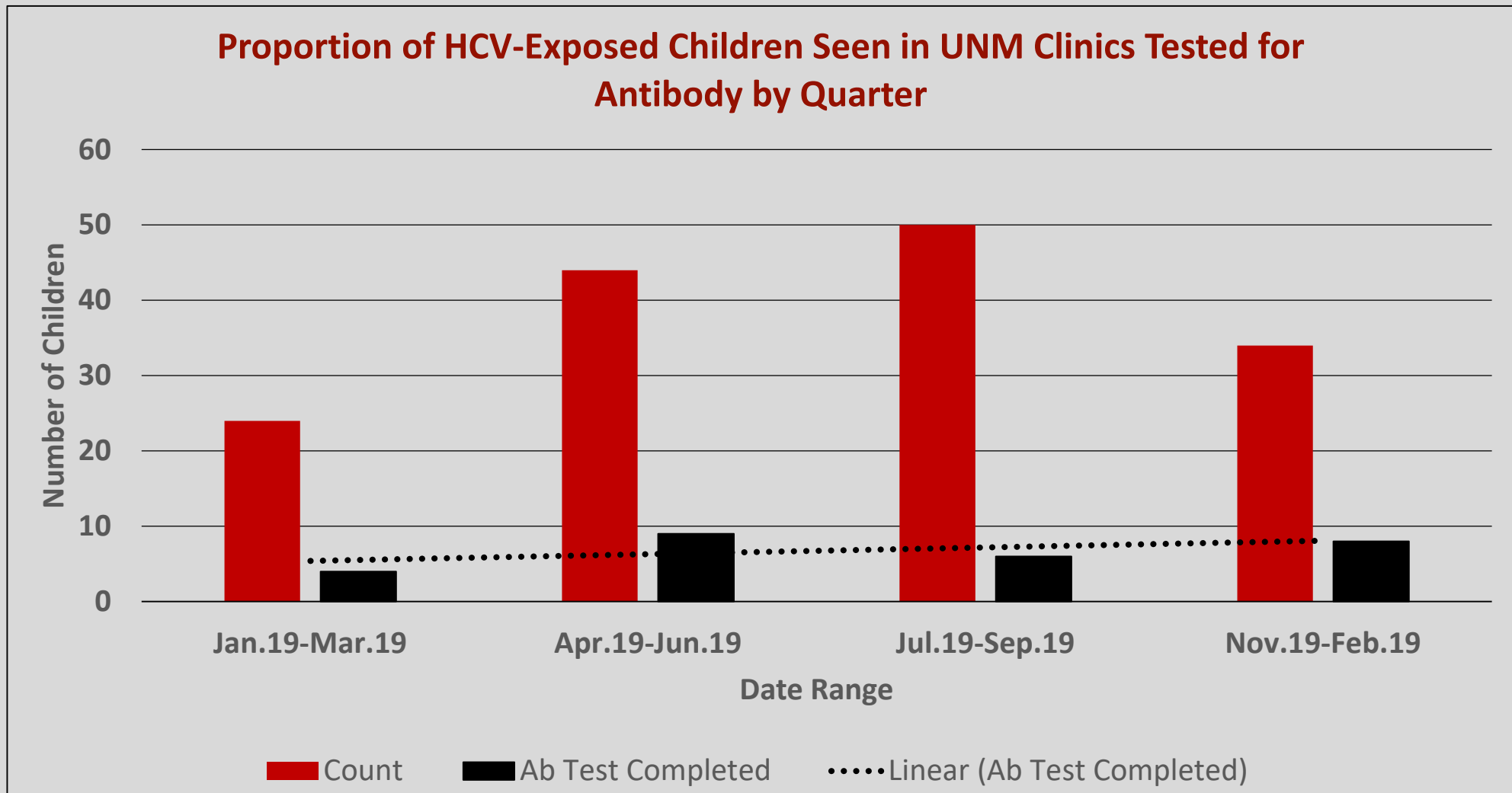
Meetings

Email reminders

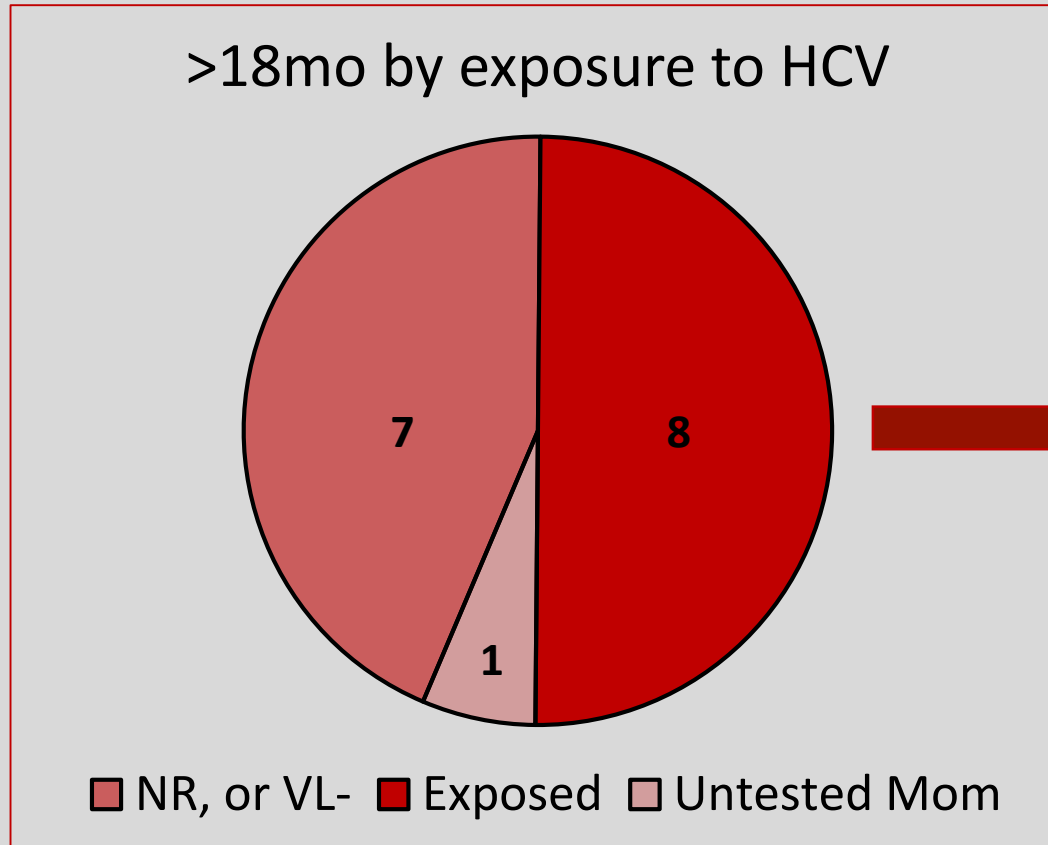
Fliers for workrooms



# Results: Baseline Data



# Results: Recent FOCUS Data



Documented in EMR: 6/8 (75%)  
Tested for HCV: 7/8 (87%)

# Conclusions

## 1. Improving Problem List Utilization

- Ongoing effort
- Templates are a barrier
- Success in some clinics

## 2. Health Maintenance Tab

- New item is active
- Hoping that this will help provide reminders
- Dependent on Problem List accuracy

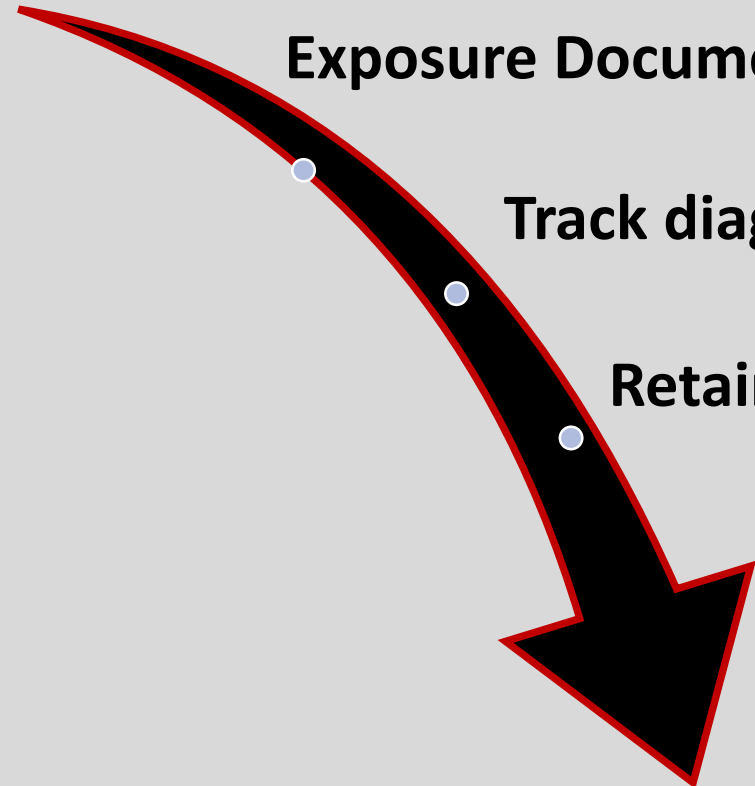
**Baby with  
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# Thank You!

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# References

Bell R, Wolfe I, Cox D, Thakrar K, Lucas L, Craig A. Hepatitis C Screening in Mothers and Infants Exposed to Opioids. *Hosp Pediatr*. 2019 Aug;9(8):639-642.

Kuncio DE, Newbern EC, Johnson CC, Viner KM. Failure to Test and Identify Perinatally Infected Children Born to Hepatitis C Virus-Infected Women. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2016 Apr 15;62(8):980-5.

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