Reviewer's report

Title: Syringe Access for the Prevention of Blood Borne Infections Among Injection Drug Users

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Reviewer: Phillip Coffin

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

This paper is a concise summary of the current thinking with regard to syringe access for disease prevention among injection drug users. Although there are no groundbreaking results reported, the article represents a solid update in the field that will help to advance efforts to prevent infectious disease. In particular, this article may help to encourage physician participation in preventing infectious disease transmission among injection drug users.

Suggested revision:
1. page 7, authors refer to referrals to medical care at SEPs. In San Francisco, on-site medical care is required during all operating hours for all legal SEPs. In addition, Positive Health Project in NYC has recently added on-site medical care for HIV-positive patients. Recommend adding "on-site medical care" to the list of services available and changing the last sentence of that para to "Also, most SEPs are not..."

Copyedits:
1. Abstract, invert words "avenues these"
2. abstract, insert "a" between "in judgmental"
3. page 4, insert comma between "without a prescription _ a demonstration project"
4. page 8, last para, first sentence, change to: "to achieving that goal."
5. page 9, 5th line, add comma: "reduce other risks _ her or she"
6. page 9, 12th line, change to: "as HIV, the need for hepatitis B vaccine, or treatment..."
7. Summary, invert words "avenues these"

Competing interests:

None declared.