



CENTRO ARARAT
protege lo que amas

ACTHIV Changemaker: Implementation of Interdisciplinary Team Case Discussions in an HIV Clinic

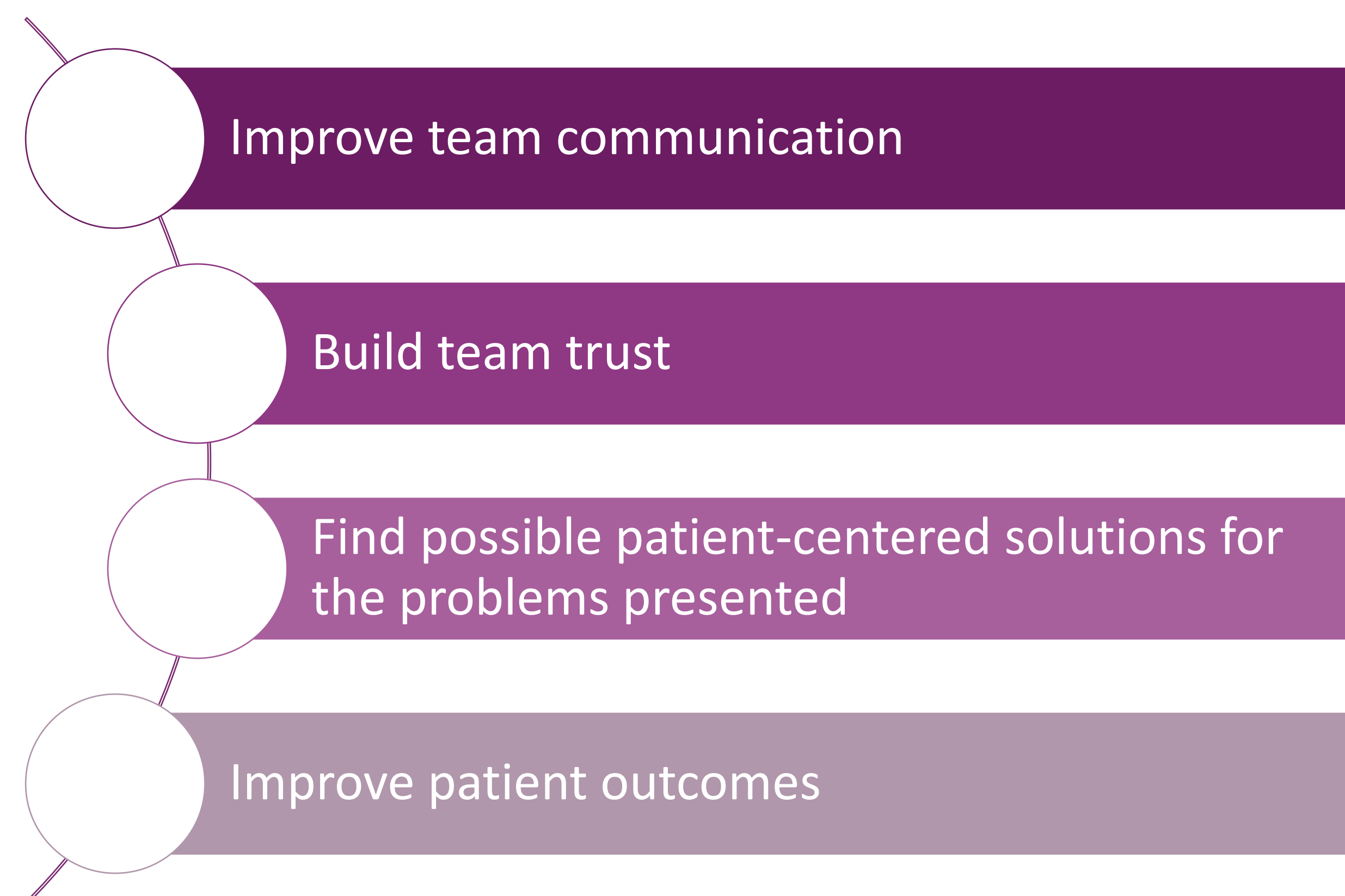


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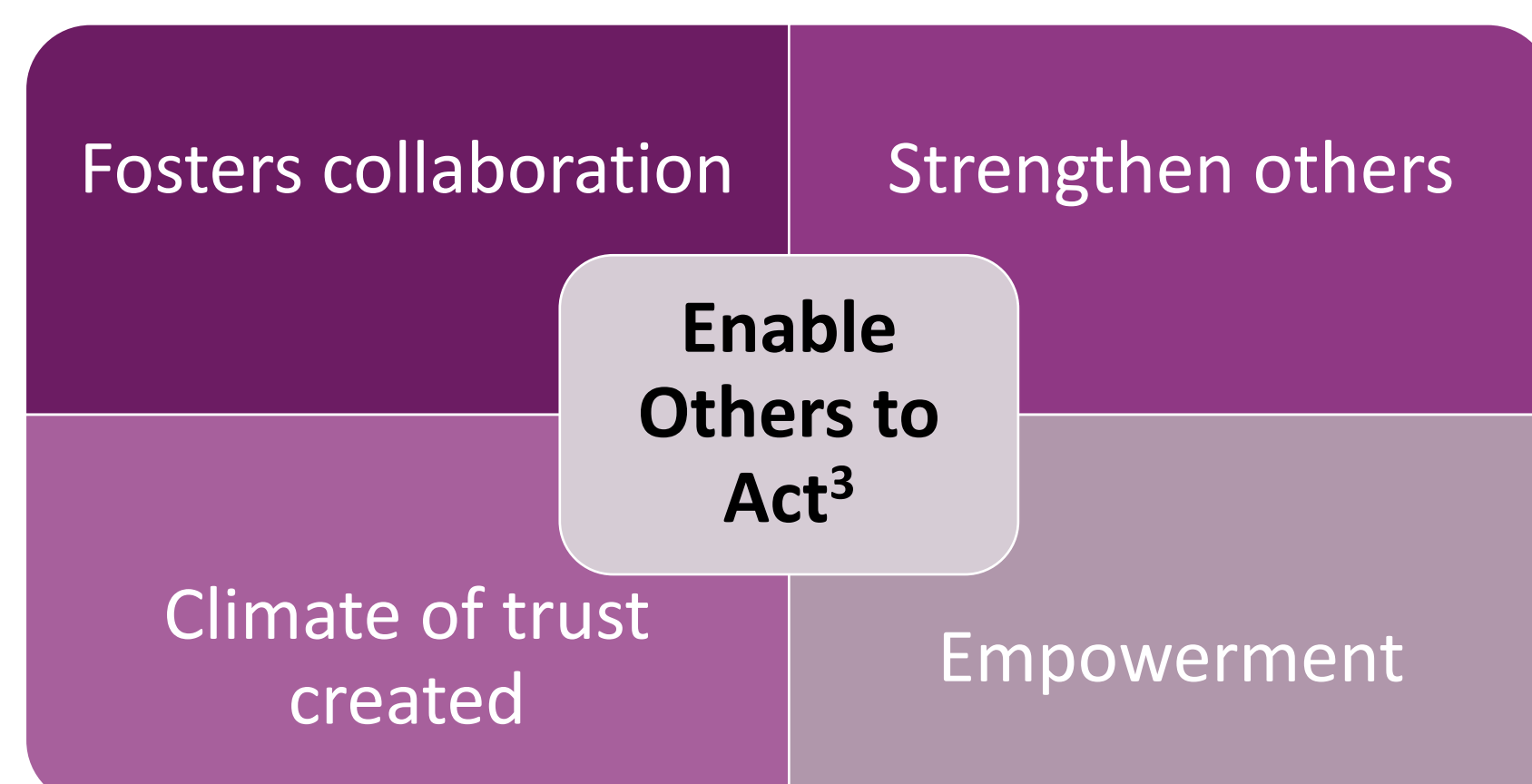
BACKGROUND

- Centro Ararat is a non-for-profit organization in Puerto Rico that manages over 1,200 people with HIV.
- Clinics are located at Ponce, San Juan, and Arecibo.
- Gaps in interdisciplinary communication were identified by clinic leaders since patient cases were discussed in an informal manner.
- A formalized case discussion with representation from all team members (physicians, pharmacists, nurses, case managers, nutritionists, psychologists, and quality personnel) was proposed.
- Studies exploring team case discussion focus on the management of patients with cancer.^{1,2}
- These studies have demonstrated that a multidisciplinary team approach is important in decision-making and can lead to changes in patient management plans, although it did not cause an impact in cancer patient survival outcomes.¹⁻²
- Gaps have been identified during these meetings such as case complexity, and availability of clinical information.²

Project Goals

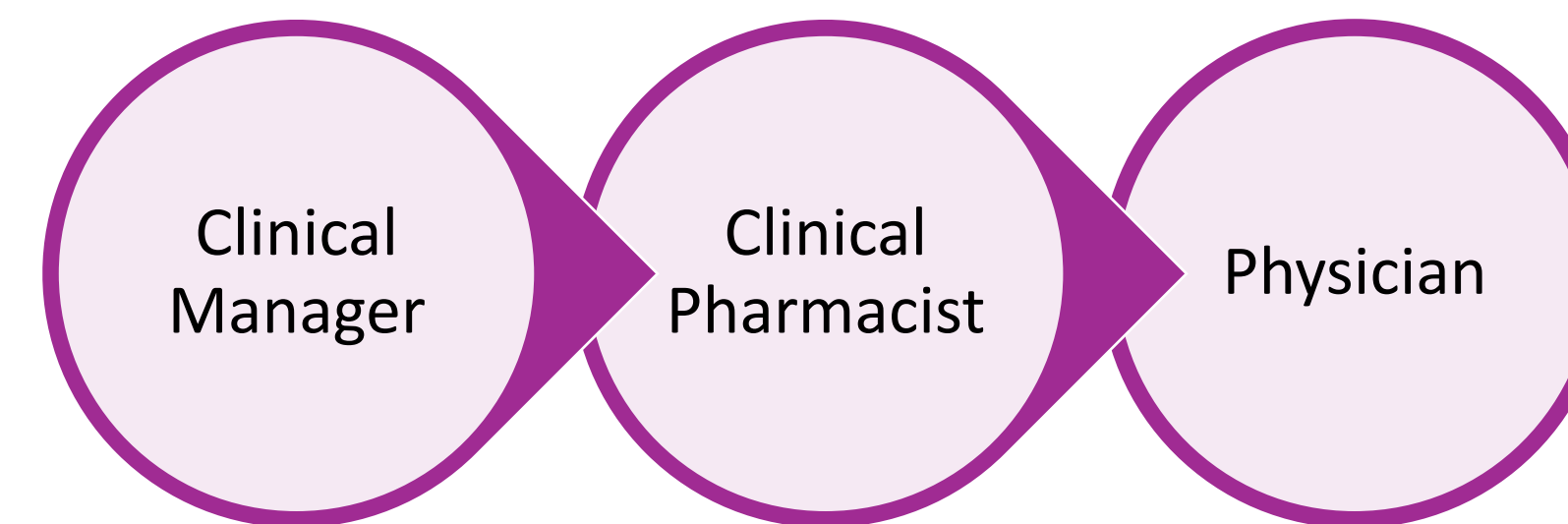


Leadership Framework



METHODS

- A core leadership team was identified to coordinate and lead case discussions:



- Elements included in the case presentation template:



- Criteria for including patients in case discussion was developed
 - Inclusion criteria: new patients, patients who miss clinic appointments, patients with detectable viral load, or patients with special needs (e.g. complex socioeconomic status).
- Cases were pre-selected by the core leadership team for the first case discussion.
- Interdisciplinary team members were empowered to identify and propose patient cases for subsequent meetings.

RESULTS

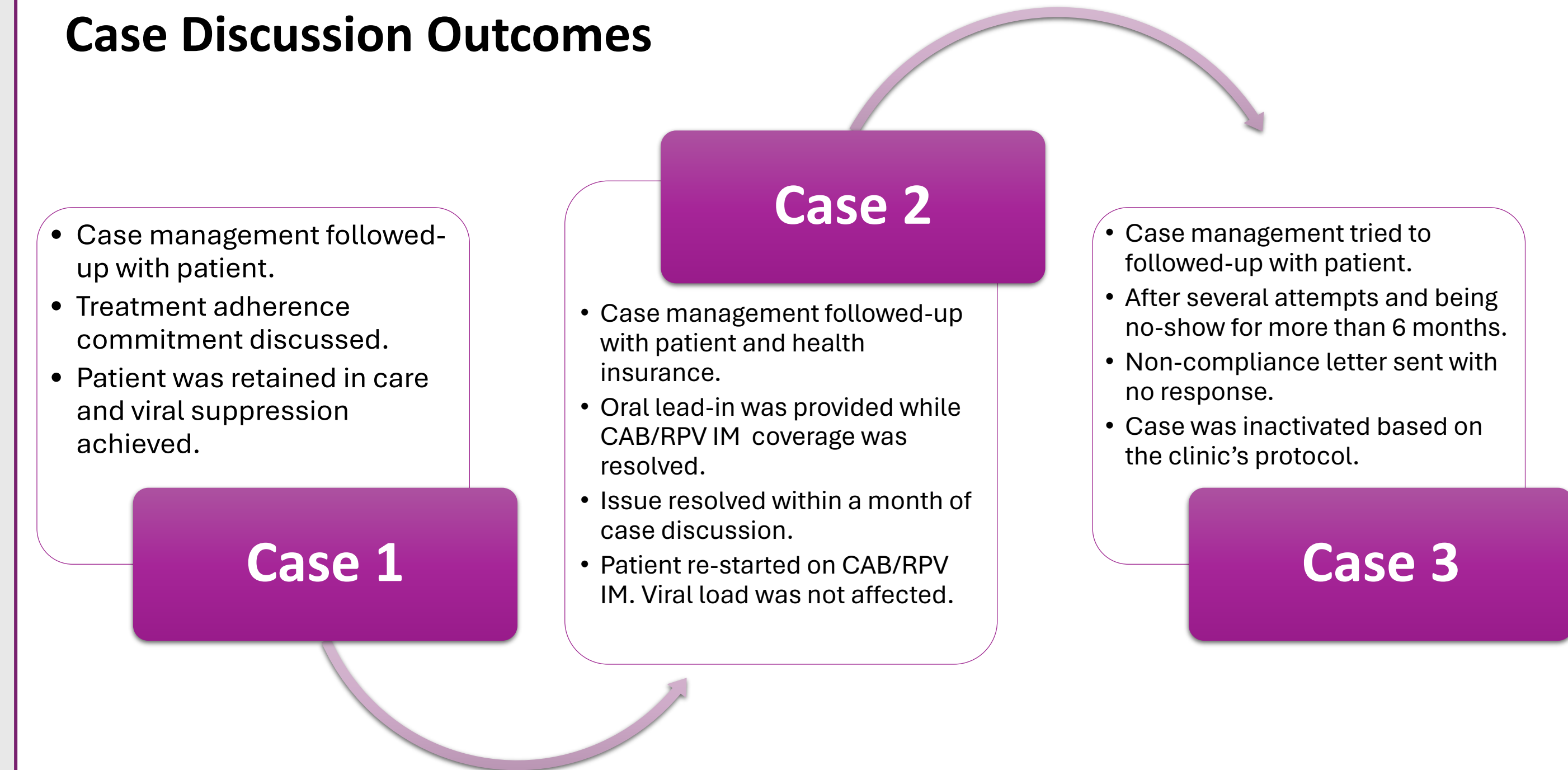
- The first formal patient case discussion was done in November 2023 led by the core leadership team.
- Great representation and strong participation from all interdisciplinary areas was observed in the first meeting.
- Staff were encouraged to introduce new ideas to challenging topics. For example, staff discussed ways to improve how clinics handled missed appointments by involving case managers and establishing commitment from patients.
- The total duration of the case discussion was about 2 hours.



- Staff reported feeling empowered to voice ideas and make recommendations.

RESULTS

Case Discussion Outcomes



Case Discussion Evaluation Results



- All respondents (100%) strongly agree that the formal case presentation was conducive to discussion amongst team members, strengthened interprofessional communication and collaboration, and helped to identify specific ways to improve patient outcomes.
- Seventy percent of respondents recommended that case discussion should be limited to 1 hour and that only 2 cases should be presented.
- Eighty six percent of respondents recommended that these meetings should be done every 3 months.

CONCLUSION

Team case discussions have yielded a positive impact amongst the interdisciplinary team as it enabled great participation of its members, increased communication, and lead to improving patient outcomes for most of the cases discussed. One of the main limitation in the implementation process of this formalized case discussions was scheduling conflicts. Our immediate goal is to establish this meetings every 3 months. Our future goal is to enable others to lead and continue this work by implementing it in other clinics or other service areas.

REFERENCES

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