

A Harm Reduction-Based Approach to Sexual Activity in Vulnerable Populations: A Free Student-Run Clinic and Pharmaceutical Company’s Attempt to Eliminate Barriers to Obtaining Emergency Contraception

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Background

- Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic (JVMC) is a free, student-run clinic associated with University of California, Davis School of Medicine which serves the unhoused, uninsured, underinsured, use intravenous drugs or engage in sex work.
- Among those who use opioids and have a uterus: 9 out of 10 pregnancies are unintended.

Hypothesis

- People who use drugs or engage in sex work have barriers to accessing non-judgmental care and awareness limiting their knowledge of contraceptive options.

Project Aim

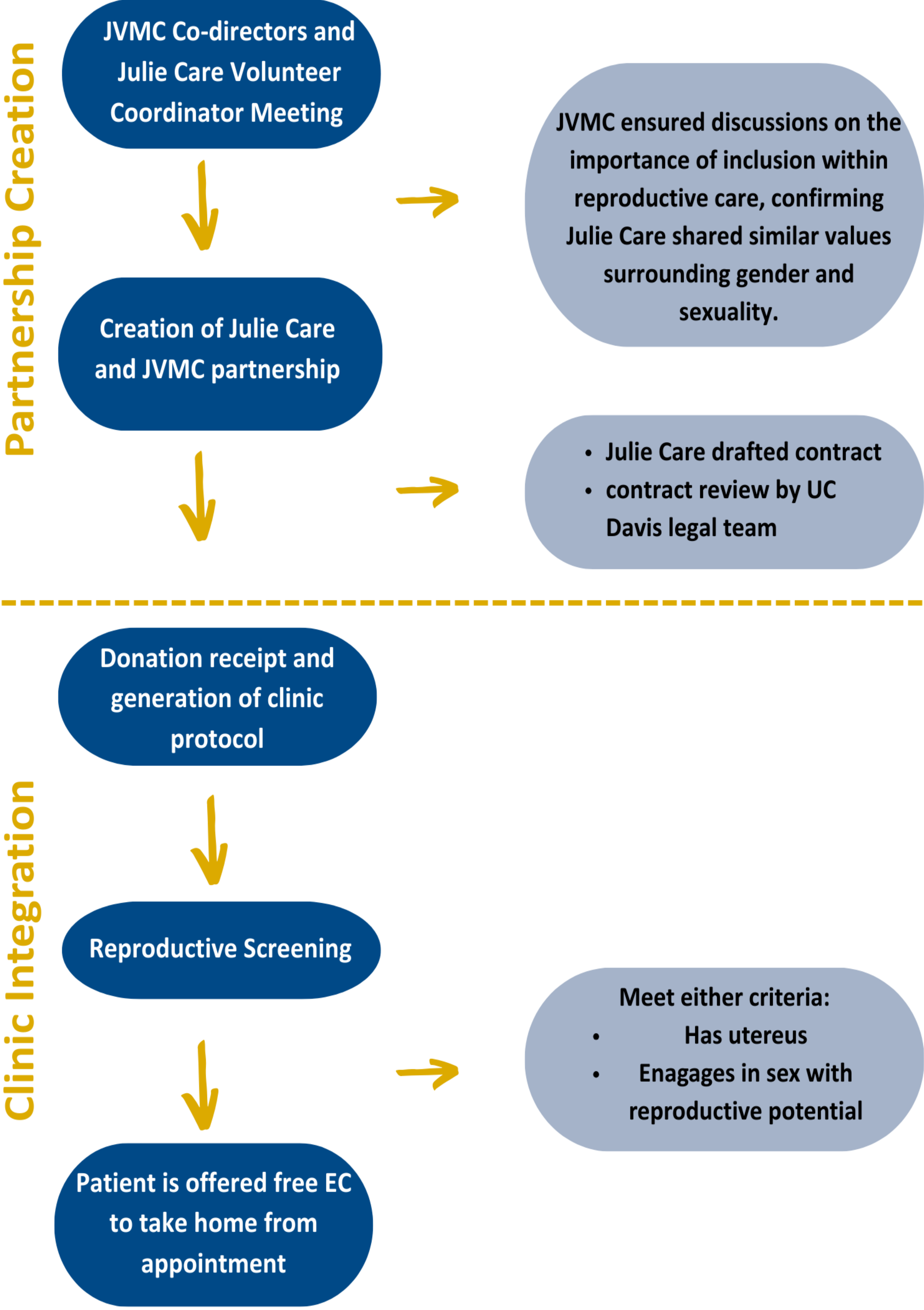
- To alleviate the financial strain vulnerable populations may have to obtaining emergency contraception.

Design

- To combat stigma and facilitate conversations around contraceptive care, JVMC asks about sexual history and contraception use as a part of each visit.
- All patients are counseled on ways to protect themselves from infection and pregnancy during sex, as well as options available after unprotected sex.
- JVMC partnered with Julie Care, a pharmaceutical company that distributes emergency contraception (1.5mg levonorgestrel tablets).
- If the patient has a uterus or engages in sexual intercourse with reproductive potential, they are offered free emergency contraception (EC) through donations from Julie Care without needing to answer further questions.

Conclusions

- Since the creation of this partnership in 2023, 410 units of emergency contraception have been donated to JVMC with plans to continue due to positive feedback from JVMC patients.



Acknowledgements

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Learn More About JVMC

