

Bree Collaborative Hepatitis C Workgroup

Proposed Timeline

April 7, 2022

The Bree Collaborative's Hepatitis C Workgroup will meet throughout 2022 to elaborate on high-priority items from Hep C Free Washington's clinical strategies recommendations. The Bree HCV workgroup will identify 4 – 6 high-priority recommendations and develop action steps to drive the work forward. The workgroup currently plans to address five priority areas, including:

1. Developing an HCV metric for the Common Measures Set
 - a. Goal 11.60 Incorporate HCV testing and linkage to care into the Health Care Authority's common measure set so they can be considered for inclusion as value-based quality of care indicators for provider reimbursement through the Health Care Authority.
2. Integrating Pharmacists into the Care Team
 - a. Goal 13.30 Work with third-party payers to recognize non-physician providers (e.g., NPs, PAs, PharmDs) as prescribers.
 - b. Goal 13.40 Encourage health plans to enroll pharmacists as providers in order to allow for pharmacists to bill for HCV testing, treatment, and prevention counseling.
3. Improving Local Public Health Jurisdiction Capacity
 - a. Goal 12.10 Identify resources to strengthen the scale and scope of public health disease intervention services, to include HBV and HCV, at local health jurisdictions, and ensure that local health jurisdictions are sufficiently staffed with disease intervention specialists to adequately respond to HCV and other infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, STDs, HAV, HBV) and to identify outbreaks.
4. Expanding Low-Barrier Treatment Access
 - a. Goal 9.40 Support the integration of HCV testing and treatment in opioid treatment programs and office-based buprenorphine treatment programs and encourage providers to offer medications for HCV in conjunction with medications for opioid use disorder early in the course of substance use treatment.
5. Expanding Access to Case Management for Treatment
 - a. New Item – Potentially expand title 19 case management for HIV patients to encompass HCV patients. Expand care coordination/case management services overall.

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In order to address the identified priorities, the Bree Collaborative workgroup will identify new metrics, policies, or action steps to achieve the goals of the Hep C Free Washington Plan. The workgroup will also organize implementation steps into an action plan to support the future work of Hep C Free Washington. A draft timeline of workgroup activities is listed below:

Month	Topic	Discussion Items
April	HCV Metrics for Common Measure Set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss potential metrics • Identify the relevant process for getting a metric incorporated into the WA state Common Measures Set • Identify alternative mechanisms to ensure adoption of HCV metrics
May	Involving Pharmacists in the Care Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current gaps/barriers for pharmacists to participate on HCV care team • Recommend policies/strategies to incentivize pharmacists • Identify levers for change including state-wide policy, plan reimbursement, or clinical workflows
June	Improving Local Public Health Jurisdiction Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify resources to strengthen the scale and scope of public health disease intervention services
July	Expanding Low-Barrier Treatment Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify low-barrier treatment access sites (i.e. OUD sites, Healthcare for the Homeless) • Recommend policies to increase access to HCV treatment and intervention services
August	Expanding Access to Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the evidence on the efficacy of case management, including examples from clinics in WA state. • Recommend policies to incentivize case management services for HCV patients.
September	Review Final Set of Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and provide comments on a consolidated document of the Bree Collaborative workgroup's recommendations. • Approve for public comment.
October	- Public Comment -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No workgroup meeting, allow time for public comment on recommendations.
November	Review Public Comments and Final Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and make final comments on the workgroup recommendations and action steps.