

# Hepatitis C Virus Recommendation Checklist

Public Health Agency-Level 2



## The current state of the issue

The number of acute HCV cases has been steadily increasing in the United States between 2012-2019, with an estimated 133% increase in acute cases reported in 2019 compared to 2012. While the cure cascade for HCV is well-defined, disparities in testing and treatment prevent many patients from accessing treatment. The greatest gap occurs between diagnosis and treatment. In Washington, only an estimated 12% of patients with diagnosed HCV infections start direct-acting antiviral treatment. Together, we can support the screening and treatment of individuals with HCV to reach our goal of eliminating Hepatitis C in Washington State by 2030.

### Strengthen the capacity to screen, treat and cure individuals.

- Create HCV screening campaigns in partnership with retail pharmacies to expand access to antibody screening.
- Partner with community-based organizations to expand HCV services to community sites, including syringe service programs, opioid use disorder/substance use disorder treatment centers, and community centers in underserved areas.
- Develop HCV screening campaigns in partnership with retail pharmacies to expand access to antibody screening.
- Identify barriers to implementing safe storage programs for HCV medications to remove barriers to care for people living with HCV who are unable to keep DAAs on their person.

### Measure outcomes

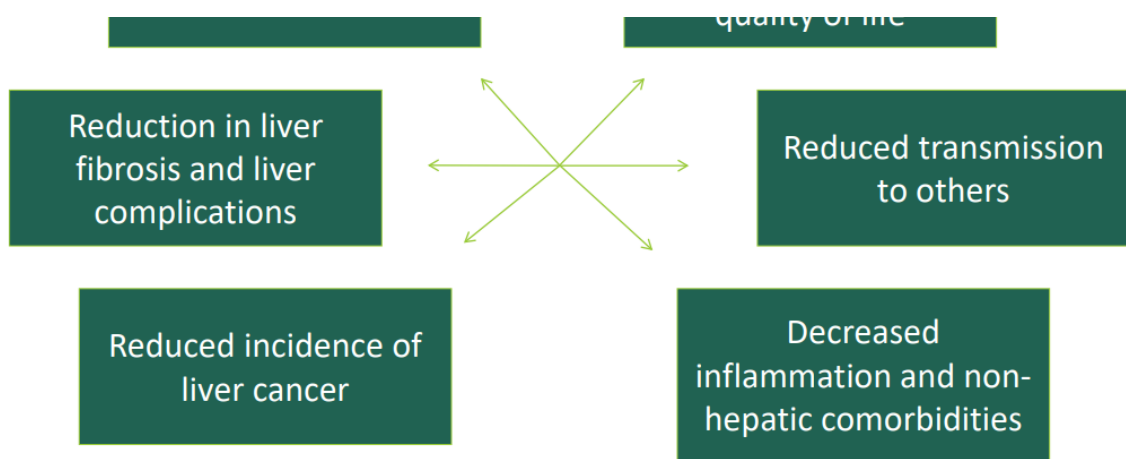
- Incorporate two HCV metrics into value-based contracts with state-purchased health plans
- One metric on HCV screening for adults aged 18 to 79
- One metric for connecting people living with HCV to treatment, specifically the prescription of direct-acting antivirals (DAAs)

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## Benefits of Cure of HCV

Reduced all-cause  
mortality

Positive psychosocial  
effects and improved  
quality of life



## Resources

- The Bree Report on HCV is meant to supplement these resources.
- Full Bree Report on HCV: <https://www.qualityhealth.org/bree/topic-areas/hep-c/>
- Hep C Free Washington (DOH): <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/hepatitis-information/hepatitis-c/eliminating-hepatitis-c>
- Hep C Free Washington (HCA): <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/clinical-collaboration-and-initiatives/eliminating-hepatitis-c>
- CDC Hepatitis C Virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>
- HCV as a Notifiable Condition: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/hepatitis-c#:~:text=Any%20individual%20or%20entity%20that,at%20least%20annually%20to%20ODOH.>
- Hepatitis Education Project: <https://hep.org/educational-resources/>

**Read the full Bree Report on HCV online by scanning the QR code:**



**Connect with the Bree Collaborative at [bree@qualityhealth.org](mailto:bree@qualityhealth.org)**

References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. Viral Hepatitis Statistics and Surveillance: Figure 3.1 Number of reported acute hepatitis C virus infection cases and estimated infections – United States, 2012-2019. Accessed August 2022. Available: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2019surveillance/Figure3.1.htm>. 2. Hep C Free Washington. 2019. Plan to Eliminate Hepatitis C in Washington State by 2030. Washington Department of Health. <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/150nonDOH-HepCFreeWA>