

Hepatitis C Virus Recommendation Checklist

Delivery Site & Health System-Level 3



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.

Increase screening opportunities

- Offer routine opt-out screening for HIV/HCV in the emergency department, especially when a blood draw is already indicated for the patient.
- When possible, provide follow-up with patients who test positive the next time they interact with the health system or by linkage to a care coordinator.

Strengthen the capacity to treat and cure individuals

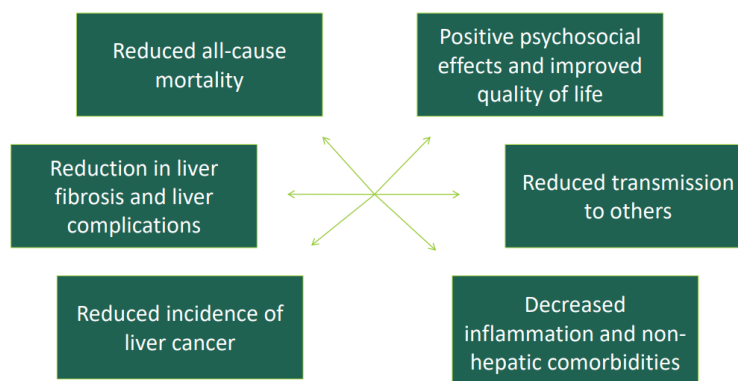
- Embed HCV services outside traditional clinical settings, including syringe service programs, opioid use disorder/substance use disorder treatment centers, and community-based organizations to serve priority populations with HCV testing, care, and treatment.
- When possible, allow providers and pharmacists who treat HCV to work at these community sites instead of offering only hospital-based clinical services.
- Develop collaborative drug therapy agreements (CDTAs) and memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreements with pharmacists that allow pharmacists to treat people living with HCV
- Encourage commercial pharmacies and community pharmacies to be able to fill prescriptions for DAAs for all insurance types promptly or to communicate accessible alternative pharmacies for DAA prescriptions to the patient and prescribing clinician.

Support the coordination of care

- Connect people living with HCV who have challenges accessing care to care navigation services.
- Embed case management services for people living with HCV in federally qualified health centers or other community clinics.

- ☐ Offer or expand case management services for people living with HCV in high-impact settings. High-impact settings include settings that serve a high proportion of clientele who inject drugs, such as outreach sites, syringe service programs, substance use disorder treatment facilities, opioid treatment programs, and organizations serving people experiencing homelessness. Ensure care coordination programs address social needs.

Benefits of Eliminating HCV



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/>
- AASLD/IDSA: <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>
- 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>
- Project ECHO Viral Hepatitis: for UW, contact Pam Landinez at landinez@uw.edu
- UW HCV Training: <https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/>
- CDC Hepatitis C Virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>
- Hepatitis C Medical Case Management Toolkit: Creating and Expanding Services: https://hepeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HEP_MCM_Toolkit.pdf

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



Connect with the Bree Collaborative at 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>