

Are you following the most recent guidelines for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) screening?

Universal, opt out HCV screening is recommended for all adults. Grade: B Recommendation.

Earlier this year, HCV screening recommendations expanded to include all adults **regardless of risk factors**. It is imperative that women undergo HCV screening during each pregnancy. Learn more about these expanded recommendations at: <http://bit.ly/HCVScreening>



- Screen all patients who are ≥ 18 years old for HCV, regardless of risk.
- Screen all pregnant women during each pregnancy.

What can I do for patients that screen HCV positive?

HCV screening in Louisiana is even more important than ever, as Louisiana has launched the first comprehensive HCV elimination program in the United States. To accomplish this goal, Louisiana Medicaid has removed all prior authorizations, sobriety requirements, and prescriber specialty or level restrictions for treating HCV. The core of this strategy is an innovative medication subscription model that provides unlimited HCV treatment at no additional cost to the Louisiana Medicaid program. Even if patients have been told they are not eligible for treatment in the past, **they can be treated now!**



To find an HCV provider, go to: <http://bit.ly/HCVMAP>

To learn more about how you can become an HCV provider, contact Dr. Frederic McCall at: Frederic.McCall@LA.gov, (919) 920-6706 (m) or go to: <http://bit.ly/HCVProvider>

Why are HCV screening and treatment so important?

It is estimated that 2.4 million persons, or 1% of the total population, in the United States are living with the (HCV), making it the most common bloodborne infection. HCV is responsible for more mortality than the following sixty other reportable infectious diseases combined. It results in end-stage liver disease, liver decompensation, hepatocellular carcinoma, liver failure, and death. Yet, some estimate that more than 50% of people living with HCV have not been diagnosed. Baby boomers (born between 1945-1965) have been a focus of attention for HCV screening, but in the last few years there has been a dramatic rise in HCV infections in younger people, with the vast majority of new HCV infections among people who inject drugs. In addition, a new class of highly effective direct acting antivirals (DAA's) are very successful for treating HCV in 3 short months. DAA's have minimal drug interaction concerns and a minimal side effect profile that makes a long-term HCV cure attainable for most patients.

HCV provider training information: <http://bit.ly/HCVTraining>

AASLD-IDSA HCV screening information: <http://bit.ly/AASLDScreening>

Sources: Schillie et al. CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Screening Among Adults – Unites States, 2020; Apr 10,2020/69 (2); 1-17

AASLD/IDSA. HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing and Treating Hepatitis C