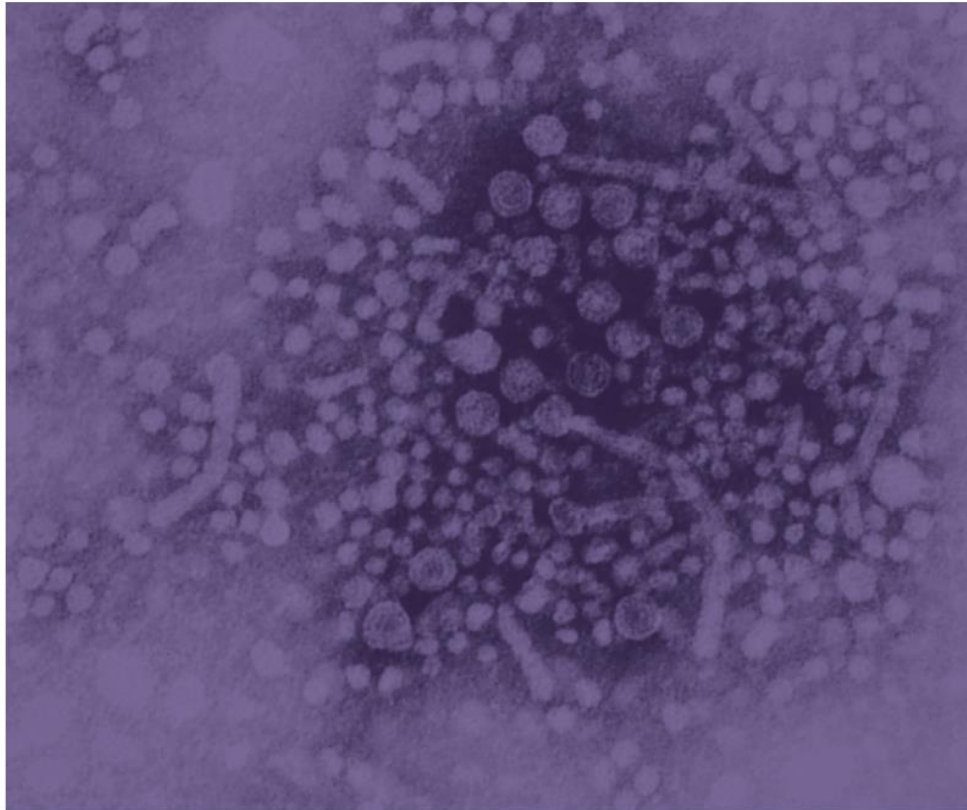




State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Public Health

Viral Hepatitis Resource Directory

September 2015



This resource directory is a continuous work in progress.

Please help make it more comprehensive by emailing additions to

lesli.choat@illinois.gov

217-782-2747.

Thank you

Illinois Hepatitis Prevention, Care and Treatment Resource Directory

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Introduction

Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in Illinois. Nationwide, it is estimated that more than 1.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and at least 3.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis C. In **Illinois**, many people living with viral hepatitis are not aware of it.

The Viral Hepatitis Resource Directory was prepared by the **Illinois Department of Public Health** to inform the general community and health and human services providers about available viral hepatitis services in Illinois.

The directory provides information about a range of services including:

- how to access prevention information,
- where to get vaccinated,
- where testing is available,
- which doctors or clinics provide medical care for people living with viral hepatitis and how to locate support services for people living with viral hepatitis.

Included in this guide is basic information about viral hepatitis and Web links to important resources throughout Illinois and nationally.

Suggested additions or updates to this guide are welcome. If you have comments please contact **Illinois Department of Public Health Sexually Transmitted Disease Program** at **217-782-2747**.

Lesli Choat, Illinois Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator lesli.choat@illinois.gov

How to Use this Guide

This guide is to be used by health and human services providers as they work with people affected by viral hepatitis. It is designed to help a person who is living with viral hepatitis navigate through a process to learn about their health status and to understand available resources/services.

New information for 2015 marked with NEW

Organizations

Caring Ambassadors Hep C Program www.hepcchallenge.org	503-632-9032
Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/hepatitis	800-232-4636
Hepatitis B Foundation www.cdc.gov	215-489-4900
Hep C Support Project www.hcvadvocate.org	
Hepatitis Foundation International www.hepfi.org	800-891-0707
Hepatitis HelpLine – Hep C Connection www.hepc-connection.org	800-522-4372
National Hepatitis C Institute www.nationalhepatitiscinstitute.org	

Clinical Trials

www.centerwatch.com – Center Watch clinical trials listing services
www.clinicaltrials.gov – Listing of clinical trials
www.searchclinicaltrials.org – Listing of clinical trials
www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials – Links information about clinical trials worldwide

Government

www.ssa.gov – Social Security Administration
www.va.gov – Veterans Administration
www.fda.gov – Food and Drug Administration
www.nih.gov – National Institutes of Health
www.congress.org – Identify legislators and e-mail addresses
www.eeoc.gov – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
www.benefitscheckup.org – Determine eligibility for government programs
www.govbenefits.gov – Determine eligibility for programs and how to apply
www.AIDSinfo.nih.gov – HIV/AIDS research, treatment, prevention, medical practice

Medical

www.aasld.org – American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
www.acg.gi.org – American College of Gastroenterology
www.gastro.org – American Gastroenterological Association
www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov - National Digestive Disease Information Clearinghouse

Health Insurance

www.medicare.gov – Federal site for Medicare information

www.patientadvocate.org – Insurance and financial resources

Substance Abuse

www.na.org – Narcotics Anonymous

www.crystalmeth.org - Help for crystal meth addiction

www.hcvanonymous.com - 12-step support group for those with HCV

www.harmreduction.org - Harm Reduction Coalition

www.samhsa.gov - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Transplants

www.unos.org - United Network for Organ Sharing

www.americantransplantfoundation.org - American Transplant Foundation

Understanding Viral Hepatitis

The word "**hepatitis**" means inflammation of the liver and also refers to a group of viral infections that affect the liver. The most common types are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

Viral hepatitis is an important public health issue

The chart on page 8 describes how hepatitis A, B, and C are transmitted, how they can be prevented, and what happens if someone becomes infected. Viral hepatitis prevention information is especially important because even though viral hepatitis is preventable, each year in the U.S. it is estimated that 43,000 people will become infected with hepatitis B, 17,000 will become infected with hepatitis C, and 25,000 persons will become infected with hepatitis A.

Vaccines can prevent hepatitis A and B

Vaccination is effective at preventing hepatitis A and B. Hepatitis A vaccination is a standard of care for infants over 1 year of age and vaccination for hepatitis B is given to anyone 18 years old or younger and all infants at birth. Depending on the different types of vaccine, two to four doses are required to provide full protection.

People not vaccinated as children and who are at risk for viral hepatitis should be vaccinated as soon as possible. Adults who are at risk for viral hepatitis include:

- immigrants from areas of the world with high rates of viral hepatitis
- people traveling to areas with high rates of hepatitis A or B
- injection drug users
- men who have sex with men
- people with multiple sexual partners
- people who are incarcerated
- people who received clotting factor before 1987
- household members of people living with hepatitis B
- people living with HIV
- people living with liver disease

Screening for Viral Hepatitis

The only way to know for sure if you have been infected with hepatitis A, B, or C is to be tested. People are not routinely screened for viral hepatitis, so even if a person has seen a doctor he or she should not assume testing was done. There are different tests for each type of viral hepatitis. The decision to get tested depends on a person's health behaviors and other factors described in the chart on the next page.

Hepatitis: The Silent Disease

Hepatitis is called the silent disease because people will often have no symptoms. The symptoms of hepatitis A, B, and C, when they occur, are similar. The symptoms include: jaundice (skin turning yellow), nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine or pale stool, loss of appetite, fatigue, or joint pain. Even though the symptoms are similar, one type of hepatitis does not progress to become another type of hepatitis – for example, hepatitis A cannot develop into hepatitis B.

General Viral Hepatitis Information

CDC Training Resources – Online Training Opportunities

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/TrainingResources.htm>

NEW

For additional viral hepatitis information, please visit:

- [CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis](#)
- [HHS Office of HIV/AIDS & Infectious Disease Policy](#)

NEW Training

NACCHO National Association of County and city Health Officials

Local Health Departments and Hepatitis C Educational Series

[http://naccho.org/topics/HPDP/hepatitis-](http://naccho.org/topics/HPDP/hepatitis-c.cfm?utm_source=MagnetMail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=lesli.choat@illinois.gov&utm_content=2015%5F05%5F19CONNECT&utm_campaign=NACCHO%20Connect%2C%20May%2019)

[c.cfm?utm_source=MagnetMail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=lesli.choat@illinois.gov&utm_content=2015%5F05%5F19CONNECT&utm_campaign=NACCHO%20Connect%2C%20May%2019](http://naccho.org/topics/HPDP/hepatitis-c.cfm?utm_source=MagnetMail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=lesli.choat@illinois.gov&utm_content=2015%5F05%5F19CONNECT&utm_campaign=NACCHO%20Connect%2C%20May%2019)

NEW

Hepatitis B - Hepatitis B Foundation <http://www.hepb.org/resources/>

Hepatitis C

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets.asp>

Action Plan for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis



Combating the Silent
Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis
**Action Plan for the Prevention,
Care & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis**

Building on the success of the nation's first comprehensive cross-agency action plan, released in 2011, *Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis: Action Plan for the Prevention, Care, & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis*, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Justice (DOJ) and Veterans Affairs (VA) released a three-year update of the plan in April 2014.

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hhs-actionplan.htm

CDC Hep A Fact Sheet: For Health Professionals
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm#>

CDC Hep B Fact Sheet: For Health Professionals
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/index.htm>

CDC Hep C Fact Sheet: For Health Professionals
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/index.htm>

CDC Hep D Fact Sheet: For Health Professionals
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HDV/index.htm>

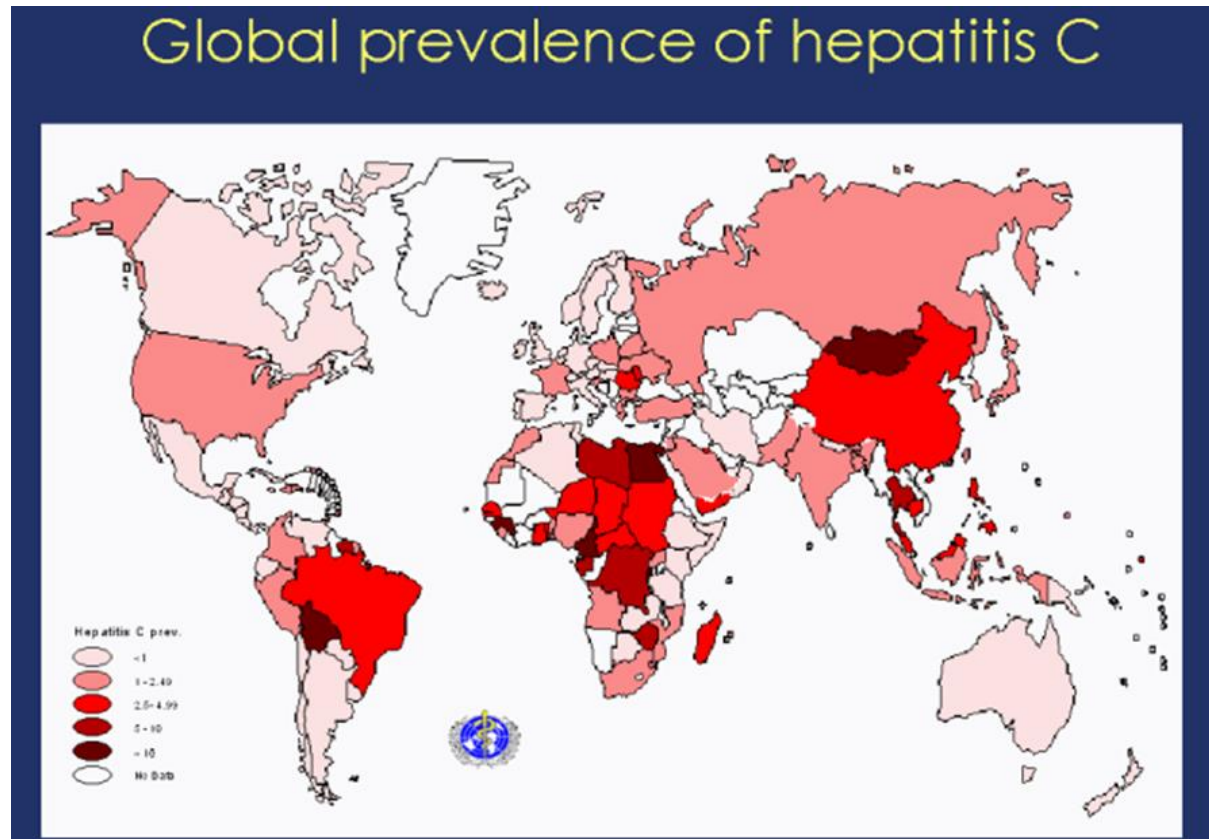
CDC Hep E Fact Sheet: For Health Professionals
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HEV/index.htm>

CDC HAV/HBV/HCV Color Coded Fact Sheet: **Patient Educational Materials**
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/PatientEdMaterials.htm>

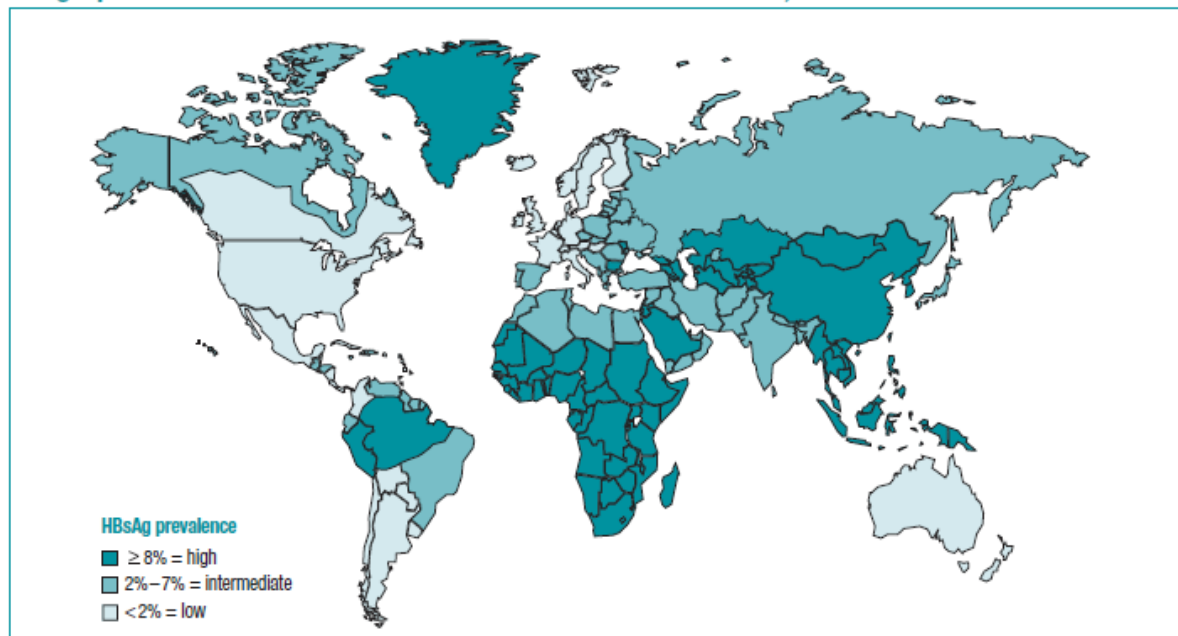
NEW

Viral Hepatitis Surveillance – Unites States, 2013 was recently posted on the CDC/NCHHSTP/DVH Website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Statistics/index.htm>.

Worldwide Hepatitis Prevalence



Geographic Distribution of Chronic HBV Infection — Worldwide, 2006*



* For multiple countries, estimates of prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), a marker of chronic HBV infection, are based on limited data and might not reflect current prevalence in countries that have implemented childhood hepatitis B vaccination. In addition, HBsAg prevalence might vary within countries by subpopulation and locality.

Source: CDC. Travellers' Health; Yellow Book. <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbookch4-HepB.aspx>.

Overview of Viral Hepatitis



Hepatitis Series I, II, III

The Illinois Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Training Program invites you to participate in a webinar series highlighting the various types of hepatitis.

- The webinars are On-Demand and available to review at your convenience
- Contact the training program for technical assistance

For **Trainings/Webinars** in the Communicable Disease Control Section, click on CD [Training Resource](#) page.

To view the recorded webinars, please click on the following links:

1. Broadcasted: Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Presenter: Lesli Choat

Hepatitis C: <http://idph.adobeconnect.com/hepatitis-c-recorded-webinar-module/event/login.html>

2. Broadcasted: Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Presenter: Richard Zimmerman

Hepatitis B & D: <http://idph.adobeconnect.com/hep-b-d-mod/event/login.html>

3. Broadcasted: Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Presenter: Dr. Fred Echols

Hepatitis A & E: <http://idph.adobeconnect.com/hep-a-e-module/event/registration.html>

Overview of Viral Hepatitis

Type of hepatitis	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
What body fluids can transmit the virus?	Feces	Blood, semen, vaginal secretions	Blood
What activities can pass the virus?	Eating food prepared by an infected person who did not wash properly after going to the bathroom; eating uncooked shellfish Any contact between the mouth and an infected person's feces or anus	Unprotected sexual intercourse Sharing equipment used to inject drugs	Sharing equipment used to inject drugs. Unprotected sexual intercourse, but this is less common
How it can be prevented?	Vaccination Early childhood vaccination was started in 1997. People over the age of 20 who are at risk, should be vaccinated.	Vaccination Early childhood vaccination was started in 1991. People over the age of 23 who are at risk, should be vaccinated.	Avoid sharing injection drug equipment; use a new, clean syringe every time you inject. Use condoms consistently and correctly every time you have sex.
What happens if someone becomes infected?	Hepatitis A is a short term illness that clears on its own within six months. No specific treatment is available except rest, drinking plenty of fluids and taking over the counter medications to control symptoms.	About 85% of people who become infected with hepatitis B are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life. About 15% develop lifelong infection and approximately 15% to 40% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10years to 25 years. Treatment is available to help slow the disease.	About 20% of people who become infected with hepatitis C are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life. About 80% develop lifelong infection and approximately 5% to 20% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10-25 years. Treatment is available with a success rate of about 50%.

Accessing Services: Prevention, Education and Interventions

Prevention, education and interventions – The organizations listed below can provide brochures, information, and counseling about how to avoid infection with viral hepatitis. Some organizations may offer free condoms, sterile syringes or other prevention resources.

NEW

A Guide to Comprehensive Hepatitis C Counseling and Testing

- **Manual for use in public health settings**

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/PDFs/CounselingandTesting.pdf>

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance for counseling and testing of individuals who are at risk for or potentially infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The manual was used in draft form as part of a field assessment among hepatitis C counselors and testers, who field tested the manual and provided recommendations for improving its utility. The field assessment was conducted under contract with Battelle Memorial Institute.

- **Manual for its use in primary care practices**

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/PDFs/CounselingandTestingPC.pdf>

The purpose of this CDC Hepatitis C Counseling and Testing manual is to provide guidance for hepatitis C counseling and testing of individuals born during 1945–1965. The guide was used in draft form as part of a field assessment conducted among primary care providers, who field tested the manual and provided recommendations for improving its utility.

The field assessment was conducted under contract with the Battelle Memorial Institute and the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network.

NEW Training

NACCHO National Association of County and city Health Officials

Local Health Departments and Hepatitis C Educational Series

http://naccho.org/topics/HPDP/hepatitis-c.cfm?utm_source=MagnetMail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=lesli.choat@illinois.gov&utm_content=2015%5F05%5F19CONNECT&utm_campaign=NACCHO%20Connect%2C%20May%2019

CDC Viral Hepatitis Fact Sheets

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/PatientEdMaterials.htm>

CDC Viral Hepatitis Posters

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/CDCInfoOnDemand.aspx?ProgramID=48>

American Liver Foundation

Free downloadable brochures

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/education/downloads/>

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/illinois/>

Take the first step in helping your patients with liver disease. Visit aasld.org/ACTFirst for complete information about HBV and HCV patient care.

Caring Ambassadors

The Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to help improve the lives of those affected by long-term diseases through advocacy, information, and support. <http://caringambassadors.org/>

Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E guide; Alabama Department of Public Health

<http://www.adph.org/hepatitis/>

AIDS.GOV Hepatitis resources

<http://aids.gov/news-and-events/hepatitis/>

Hepatitis B Asian Liver Center

<http://liver.stanford.edu/Public/brochures.html>

NEW

Hepatitis C & Injection Drug Use Fact Sheet

CDC has developed a fact sheet on Hepatitis C and injection drug use. The fact sheet includes an overview of hepatitis C including symptoms, testing, transmission, prevention, treatment, and reinfection.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/FactSheet-PWID.pdf>

NEW

Hepatitis Infographic


Created by IDPH STD Program - PDF version can be requested at 217-782-2747

Illinois Department of Public Health

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C GET TESTED: IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE !

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a silent epidemic, transmitted through blood, where the majority of people with HCV do not know they are infected. A HCV infection can lead to liver damage, failure, and cancer, making it the leading cause of liver transplants.

Individuals born between 1945-1965 are 5x more likely to be infected with Hepatitis C.

Who has HCV?

3 out of every 4 people with HCV were born between 1945-1965

75%
Of people living with HCV do not know they are infected

For every 100 people infected with HCV

Age Group	Develop chronic infection	Develop chronic liver disease	Develop cirrhosis*	Will die of cirrhosis or liver cancer
75-85	75-85	60-70	5-20	1-5

Some people do not know how or when they were infected

People With Hepatitis C

- Often have no symptoms
- Can live with an infection for decades without feeling sick
- Can be successfully treated with medications

**Born between 1945-1965?
Get tested for Hepatitis C**

A blood test is the only way to know if you have Hepatitis C

95% CURE RATE
Treatments are available that can cure HCV

Ask your doctor for an HCV test today!

*Cirrhosis: scarring of the liver

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program

Accessing Services: Vaccination

Vaccination – The organizations listed below can provide vaccination against hepatitis A and B. Some organizations may offer the screening free of charge and others may require the individual to pay a fee.

Illinois Local Health Department Directory

These Local Health Departments (LHD's) with STD clinics provide hepatitis A and B vaccinations. Contact the LHD to confirm vaccine availability.

<http://intra.idph.il/IDPH+Intranet/Directories/Local+Health+Dept+Directory.htm>

The Pink Book -Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/hepb.html>

Hepatitis A ACIP Vaccine Recommendations

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>

Hepatitis B Vaccination ACIP Vaccine Recommendations

<http://www.cdc.gov/Vaccines/vpd-vac/hepb/default.htm>

Accessing Services: Screening

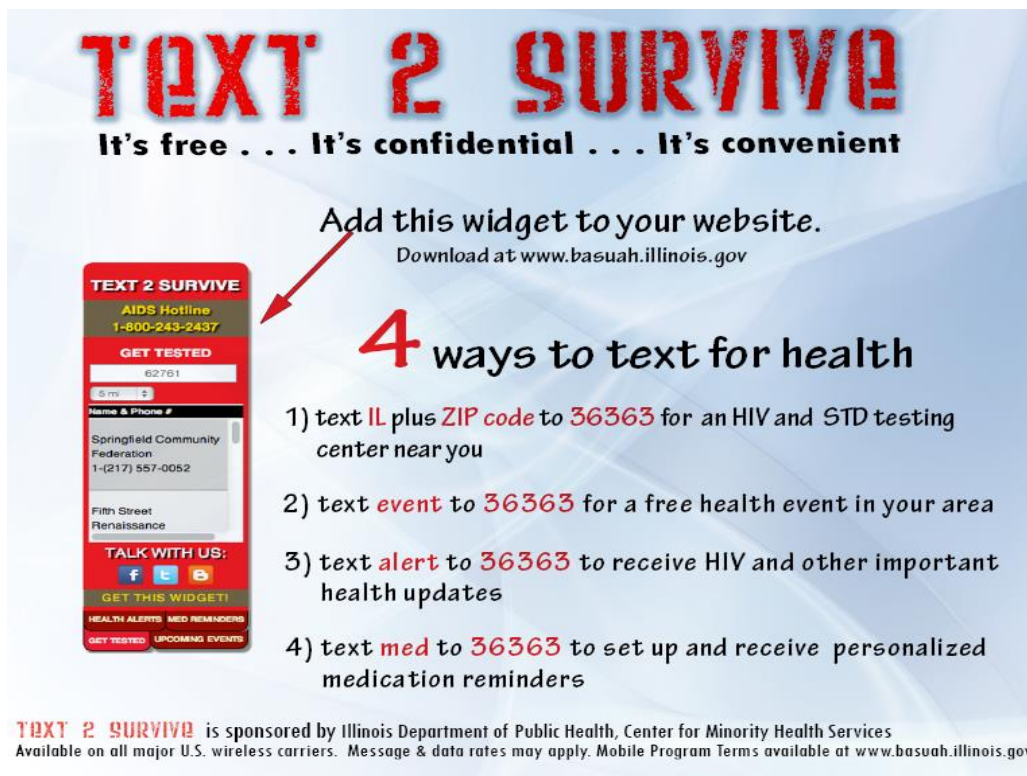
Screening – The organizations listed below can provide screening to help a person learn whether they are infected with viral hepatitis. Some organization may offer the screening free of charge and others may require the individual to pay a fee.

CDC Testing Recommendations for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>

Contact Illinois Department of Public Health HIV program at 217-524-5983 for assistance in locating rapid testing sites.

TEXT 2 SURVIVE Find Health Screenings in your area



TEXT 2 SURVIVE
It's free . . . It's confidential . . . It's convenient

Add this widget to your website.
Download at www.basuah.illinois.gov

4 ways to text for health


- 1) text **IL** plus **ZIP code** to **36363** for an HIV and STD testing center near you
- 2) text **event** to **36363** for a free health event in your area
- 3) text **alert** to **36363** to receive HIV and other important health updates
- 4) text **med** to **36363** to set up and receive personalized medication reminders

TEXT 2 SURVIVE is sponsored by Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services
Available on all major U.S. wireless carriers. Message & data rates may apply. Mobile Program Terms available at www.basuah.illinois.gov

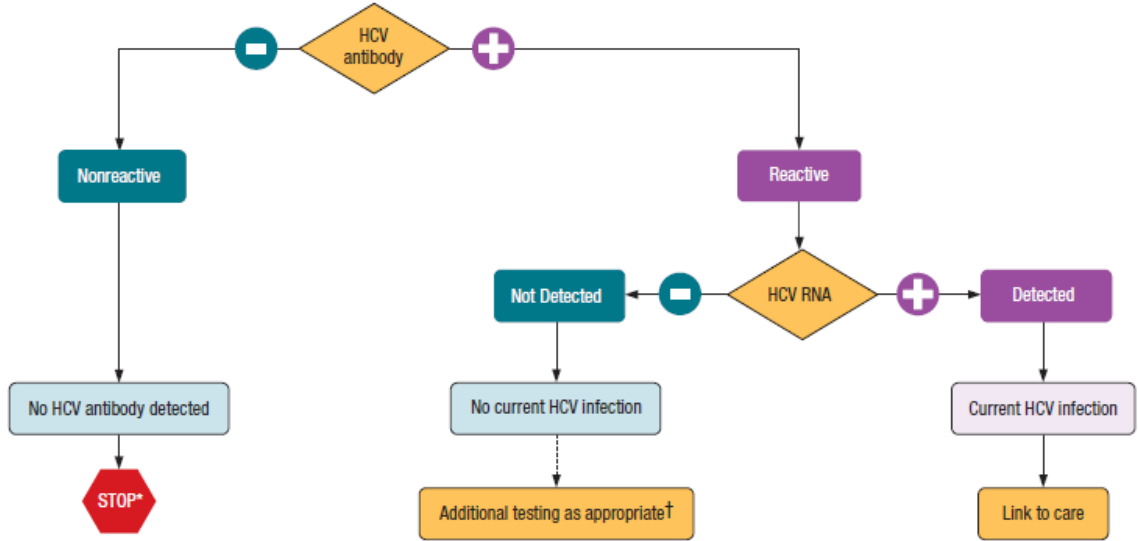
The graphic features a smartphone displaying the Text 2 Survive widget. The widget includes the text 'TEXT 2 SURVIVE', 'AIDS Hotline 1-800-243-2437', 'GET TESTED', a search bar with '62761' entered, a list of results for 'Springfield Community Federation' and 'Fifth Street Renaissance', 'TALK WITH US:' with social media icons, 'GET THIS WIDGET!', and 'HEALTH ALERTS MED REMINDERS'. A red arrow points from the text 'Add this widget to your website.' to the widget on the phone.

HCV Testing Algorithm

Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



* For persons who might have been exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, testing for HCV RNA or follow-up testing for HCV antibody is recommended. For persons who are immunocompromised, testing for HCV RNA can be considered.

† To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen.

Source: CDC. Testing for HCV infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians. *MMWR* 2013;62(18).

HCV Test Interpretation

Interpretation of Results of Tests for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and Further Actions



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

TEST OUTCOME	INTERPRETATION	FURTHER ACTIONS
HCV antibody nonreactive	No HCV antibody detected	Sample can be reported as nonreactive for HCV antibody. No further action required. If recent exposure in person tested is suspected, test for HCV RNA.*
HCV antibody reactive	Presumptive HCV infection	A repeatedly reactive result is consistent with current HCV infection, or past HCV infection that has resolved, or biologic false positivity for HCV antibody. Test for HCV RNA to identify current infection.
HCV antibody reactive, HCV RNA detected	Current HCV infection	Provide person tested with appropriate counseling and link person tested to care and treatment.†
HCV antibody reactive, HCV RNA not detected	No current HCV infection	No further action required in most cases. If distinction between true positivity and biologic false positivity for HCV antibody is desired, and if sample is repeatedly reactive in the initial test, test with another HCV antibody assay. In certain situations,‡ follow up with HCV RNA testing and appropriate counseling.

* If HCV RNA testing is not feasible and person tested is not immunocompromised, do follow-up testing for HCV antibody to demonstrate seroconversion. If the person tested is immunocompromised, consider testing for HCV RNA.

† It is recommended before initiating antiviral therapy to retest for HCV RNA in a subsequent blood sample to confirm HCV RNA positivity.

‡ If the person tested is suspected of having HCV exposure within the past 6 months, or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen.

Source: CDC. Testing for HCV infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratories. *MMWR* 2013;62(18).

HBV Diagnosis

Diagnostic Tests for HBV

HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen	Detect acute or chronic infection; used in HepB vaccine
Anti-HBs*	Antibody to HBsAg	Identify resolved infections or immunity from vaccine
HBeAg	Hepatitis B e antigen	Identify people who are highly infectious
Anti-Hbe	Antibody to Hbe	Identify people at lower risk for transmitting HepB
Anti-HBc	Antibody to HBcAg	Identify people with acute, resolved or chronic HBV
IgM anti-HBc**	IgM antibody to HBcAg	Identify acute or recent HBV infection

*HBsAg detected as early as 1 to 2 weeks and late as 11 or 12 weeks
**IgM anti-HBc detectable 4 – 6 months

Source Hep B foundation www.hepb.org

Interpretation of Hepatitis B Serology tests (Hep B Panel) #1

TESTS	RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative negative	susceptible
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative positive	Immune (probably vaccinated)
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive positive	Immune (from infection)

Interpretation of Hepatitis B Serology tests (Hep B Panel) #2

TESTS	RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive positive negative	Acutely infected
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive negative negative	Chronically infected

Interpretation of Hepatitis B Serology tests (Hep B Panel) #3

TESTS	RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	Recovering from acute infection?
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	Immune but low level anti-HBs in serum?
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	Susceptible with false positive anti-HBc?
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	Carrier with low level HBsAg?

Source Hep B foundation www.hepb.org

Accessing Services: Treatment

Treatment – The links listed below provide information about treatment for people living with chronic hepatitis B or C. These facilities may or may not accept private insurance or Medicaid. Some facilities may provide free care free to individuals without coverage. It is important to consult with the facilities about how they handle reimbursement for their services.

Important Links for Locating Treatment in Illinois

Find a Specialty Doctor in Illinois

<http://www.hepchope.com/hepatitis-c-treatment/find-a-doctor>

<http://health.usnews.com/doctors/city-index/illinois#S>

Find a Drug Treatment Program

<http://drugabuse.com/usa/drug-abuse/illinois/>

[Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator](#) to locate alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs near you

HIV care in Illinois

<http://www.hivcareconnect.com/>

Find Ryan White HIV/AIDS care providers

http://findhivcare.hrsa.gov/Search_HAB.aspx?byCounty=1

VA Healthcare Sites in Illinois

<http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=IL>

This website provides the most up-to-date guidance on appropriate care for practitioners who treat patients infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV). [HCVguidelines.org](http://hcvguidelines.org), developed by Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) in collaboration with the International Antiviral Society-USA (IAS-USA), offers evidence-based, consensus recommendations for the screening, treatment and management of patients with HCV.

AASLD/IDSA Recommendations for Testing, Managing and Treating Hepatitis C

The AASLD American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the IDSA Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) have partnered with the International Antiviral Society USA (IAS-USA) to launch a website offering up-to-date guidance on the treatment of HCV infection.

<http://hcvguidelines.org/>

American College of Gastroenterology Hepatitis C Treatment Resource Kit

<http://gi.org/acg-institute/hepatitis-c-treatment-resources/>

NEW

Treatment Advances in Medications to Treat Hepatitis C

May 2011

The FDA approved two new medications that are part of a drug group called protease inhibitors:

- Boceprevir (brand name VICTRELIS)
- Telaprevir (brand name INCIVEK)

These drugs directly attack the Hepatitis C virus to stop it from reproducing and are referred to as direct-acting antivirals (DAAs). The protease inhibitors were approved to be used in people with HCV genotype 1 in combination with Peg-IFN/RBV therapy. They could not be used alone; using Peg-IFN/RBV plus one of the protease inhibitors was called [triple therapy](#). These medications were no longer used after interferon-free regimens became widely available in 2014.

November 2013

The FDA approved the first once-daily protease inhibitor:

- **Simeprevir (brand name OLYSIO)**

It received its initial FDA approval in combination with Peg-IFN/RBV therapy, but few people received this regimen. Broad use of simeprevir occurred when it was used in combination with a newer drug, sofosbuvir (SOVALDI). This all-oral regimen was initially prescribed off-label (meaning that it wasn't part of the FDA-approved labeling) for genotype 1 patients and was offered with and without ribavirin. FDA approval for the simeprevir and sofosbuvir combination was ultimately received in [November 2014](#).

December 2013

The FDA approved a new medication that is a part of a drug group called polymerase inhibitors. It works by blocking a specific protein the Hepatitis C virus needs to grow. It is called:

- **Sofosbuvir (brand name SOVALDI)**

Sofosbuvir, a once-daily pill, was approved to treat HCV genotypes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This was the first drug that allowed genotype 2 and 3 patients to be treated with pills only, offering an interferon-free regimen with ribavirin. The first line therapy for genotype 1 and 4 patients became a 12-week combination regimen with peginterferon and ribavirin. Patients ineligible for interferon could be offered a 24-week regimen of sofosbuvir and ribavirin.

Sofosbuvir was the first HCV drug with the initial FDA approval inclusive of people who had HIV-HCV co-infection.

October 2014

The FDA approved the first combination pill to treat Hepatitis C, offering people with HCV genotype 1 an all-oral treatment regimen:

- **Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir (brand name HARVONI)**

This once-daily pill combined sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) and a new drug called ledipasvir. These medications are part of the class of drugs called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs), which interfere with the enzymes the hepatitis C virus needs to multiply.

Harvoni was approved to treat adults with HCV genotype 1, the most common form of HCV in the U.S. This was the first drug that allowed people with genotype 1 to be treated with only one pill, eliminating the need for weekly injections of interferon or a second antiviral, ribavirin, both of which are challenging to take and tolerate.

In clinical trials, Harvoni cured HCV after 12 weeks of treatment in about 94% of people who took it.

November 2014

The FDA granted **simeprevir (OLYSIO)** an additional approval to be used in combination with **sofosbuvir (SOVALDI)** as a once-daily, all-oral, interferon and ribavirin-free treatment for adults with genotype 1 HCV infection. (Previous to this, simeprevir had to be used in combination with Peg-IFN/RBV therapy, as outlined above.) This approval gave people with genotype 1 another all-oral treatment option.

December 2014

The FDA approved a new combination medicine, which can be given with or without ribavirin, to treat adults with genotype 1 HCV infection, including people who have a certain kind of cirrhosis (compensated):

- **Ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir tablets; dasabuvir tablets (brand name VIEKIRA PAK)**

Viekira Pak, an all-oral interferon-free regimen, is also approved for HCV/HIV co-infection and people who have had a liver transplant. It is not for people with advanced cirrhosis (decompensated). If you have cirrhosis, you should talk with your healthcare provider before taking Viekira Pak.

In clinical trials, Viekira Pak cured 97% of people with HCV genotype 1a and 1b, including people both new and experienced to treatment, and people with compensated cirrhosis.

New Developments in Hepatitis C Treatments

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/hepC/HCVDrugs.html>

Accessing Services: Support Services

Support services – The organizations listed below provide support services for people living with viral hepatitis. Services may include support groups, individual counseling, case management services, and other types of social or emotional support.

Free Hepatitis C Helpline 800-GO-LIVER (800-465-4837) Monday through Friday 9a.m.-7p.m. EST. It is manned by trained professionals in liver diseases.

American Liver Foundation

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/illinois/>

Support Groups

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/illinois/resources/>

Caring Ambassadors

The Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to help improve the lives of those affected by long-term diseases through advocacy, information, and support. <http://caringambassadors.org/>

HCV Advocate – The Hepatitis C Support Project

<http://hcvadvocate.org/hcsp/hcsp.asp>

The Hepatitis C Support Project (HCSP) is a registered non-profit organization founded in 1997 by Alan Franciscus and other HCV positive individuals to address the lack of education, support, and services available at that time for the HCV population. HCSP's mission is to provide unbiased information, support, and advocacy to all communities affected by HCV and HIV/HCV coinfection, including medical providers.

Accessing Services: Perinatal Hepatitis B

NEW

CDC Perinatal hepatitis B information

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/perinatalexmtn.htm>

NEW

ACIP and CDC Guidelines for preventing perinatal hepatitis B

<http://liver.stanford.edu/resources/articles/Perinatal%20Hepatitis%20B%20Prevention.pdf>

Educational Links/Fact sheets for Patients

<http://hepbmoms.org/projects.html>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4306.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hepb/downloads/PL-dis-hepb-color-office.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hepb/downloads/dis-hepb-bw-office.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/HepBPerinatal-ProtectHepBYourBaby.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/HepBPerinatal-ProtectWhenPregnant.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4110.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4055.pdf>

Educational Links/Fact sheets for Providers

<http://www.immunize.org/protect-newborns/>

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077006900C04510R.html>

http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Give_the_Birth_Dose.pdf

<http://www.hepbmoms.org/brochure/PhysiciansGuide2012.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2081.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2126.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2128.pdf>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2062.pdf>

Coinfection

People with HIV infection are often affected by viral hepatitis; about one-third are co-infected with either HBV or HCV, which can cause long-term illness and death. More people living with HIV have HCV than HBV. Viral hepatitis progresses faster and causes more liver-related health problems among people with HIV than among those who do not have HIV. Although drug therapy has extended the life expectancy of people with HIV, liver disease—much of which is related to HCV and HBV—has become the leading cause of non-AIDS-related deaths in this population.

People with HIV who are co-infected with either HBV or HCV are at increased risk for serious, life-threatening complications. As a result, anyone living with HIV should be tested for HBV and HCV. Coinfection with hepatitis may also complicate the management of HIV infection. To prevent coinfection for those who are not already infected with HBV, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends HAV and/or HBV vaccination of high-risk patients (including those who are gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men [MSM]^a; injection drug users;) with HIV infection or AIDS. Read more about the recommendation at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5516a1.htm?s_cid=rr5516a1_e.

The Numbers

- Of people with HIV in the United States, about 25% are co-infected with HCV, and about 10% are co-infected with HBV.
- About 80% of people with HIV who inject drugs also have HCV.
- HIV coinfection more than triples the risk for liver disease, liver failure, and liver-related death from HCV.
- About 20% of all new HBV infections and 10% of all new HAV infections in the United States are among MSM. In the United States, HCV is twice as prevalent among blacks as among whites.

CDC HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Populations/hiv.htm>

http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library_factsheets_HIV_and_viral_Hepatitis.pdf

Training course for Hepatitis C/ HIV co-infection

<http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/hcv/publications/training-manual-treatment-advocates-slides>

AIDS.GOV Hepatitis resources

<http://aids.gov/news-and-events/hepatitis/>

HIV and Hepatitis

This website provides information on HIV and viral hepatitis sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. The focus is on clinical issues related to HIV, viral hepatitis and co-infection. <http://www.hivandhepatitis.org/>

National AIDS Treatment and Advocacy Project

This website provides extensive information about HIV, HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection. <http://natap.org/>

Living with Hepatitis C

An important purpose of this guide is to provide information about services available to people living with hepatitis C. If you have recently tested positive for hepatitis C, know that you are not alone. In Illinois there are more than 7,000 people living with hepatitis C.

Know your HCV Status

The only way to know for sure if you have hepatitis C is to get tested. Some of the screening sites listed in this guide may offer antibody testing for hepatitis C. In about 20% of the cases of hepatitis C, a person's body is able to fight off the infection and clear the virus. This means, the person may test positive for antibodies, but may not have lifelong infection. In order to know if you have lifelong infection (also called chronic infection), it is important to have a confirmatory test, such as an HCV viral load test.

Get Medical Care

Hepatitis C is known as a “silent epidemic” because people can live with the infection for many years without any noticeable symptoms. People with chronic hepatitis C should be monitored regularly for signs of liver disease. Even though a person may not feel sick, damage to the liver can still occur. People with hepatitis C should get medical care that includes:

- an initial physical exam and medical history
- liver function tests
- viral load and genotype testing
- vaccination for hepatitis A and B
- routine health maintenance and evaluation for other problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other diseases.

To evaluate the health of your liver, your medical provider may want to conduct an ultrasound or biopsy of your liver.

Talk with your Provider about Treatment

Antiviral medication can be used to treat some people with hepatitis C, but not everyone needs or can benefit from treatment. The decision to undergo treatment is an individual one you would make in consultation with your medical provider.

Reduce Alcohol Consumption

One of the most important steps that people living with hepatitis can take to protect their health is to reduce or eliminate alcohol consumption. Even small amounts of alcohol - two to three drinks per day - may speed up liver damage in people with hepatitis C. People living with hepatitis C should talk with their doctor before taking prescription or over the counter medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins. It is important to avoid large amounts (2000 mg) of acetaminophen (Tylenol and other non-aspirin pain relievers), because they are toxic to the liver.

Learn About How to Maximize Your Health

Other important steps to help improve health and quality of life for people living with HCV include: eating a healthy, balanced diet, drinking plenty of water, getting eight hours of sleep each night, exercising, and taking steps to reduce stress.

Resources: Living with Hepatitis

If you are living with chronic hepatitis C, there are a number of helpful websites and brochures to help you navigate through the process of learning your status to accessing care and treatment.

HCV Advocate

The HCV Advocate is a national organization with expertise regarding HCV and HBV. Its website provides information on hepatitis C treatment options, articles, newsletters, and resources for people living with HCV and HBV.

<http://www.hevadvocate.org/>

<http://www.hbvadvocate.org/>

Specific materials of interest from HCV Advocate

First Steps for Living with HCV

Brochure offers suggestions for managing the early phases of living with an HCV diagnosis.

http://hevadvocate.org/hepatitis/First_Steps.asp

Guide to Healthy Living with HCV

Brochure provides a guide for living with HCV.

http://hevadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/Healthy%20Living%20Guide_09.pdf

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors.....503-632-9032

The Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to improve the lives of people living with hepatitis C through information and awareness. <http://caringambassadors.org/>

Hepatitis C Choices: <http://www.hepcchallenge.org/>

Hepatitis C Choices is a book available online to help people living with HCV becomes the best possible advocate for their health care. It provides useful information to help make treatment and lifestyle choices.

<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/choices/disclaimer.htm>

Hepatitis C Primer

Find answers to hepatitis C, B and D and liver support questions. This website was developed by a patient to help you learn the facts.

<http://www.hepcprimer.com/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).....404-718-8596

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

www.cdc.gov

<http://www.chronicliverdisease.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/LearnMore.htm>

Hepatitis B Foundation.....215-489-4900
www.cdc.gov

Hepatitis Foundation International.....301-622-4200
www.hepfi.org 800-891-0707

Hepatitis HelpLine – Hep C Connection800-522-HEPC (4372)
www.hepc-connection.org

National Hepatitis C Institute
<http://www.nationalhepatitiscinstitute.org/>

Patient Assistance Programs

Patient assistance programs are coordinated by pharmaceutical companies to provide free medications to people who cannot afford to buy their medicine. Pharmaceutical companies have a long-standing tradition of providing prescription medicines free of charge to physicians whose patients might not otherwise have access to necessary medicines. Pharmaceutical companies operate these programs, commonly referred to as patient assistance programs, voluntarily. Many drug manufacturers offer patient assistance programs, which can greatly decrease or entirely eliminate the costs of many medications.

RxAssist Directory of Patient Assistance Programs:

RxAssist offers a comprehensive database of these patient assistance programs, as well as practical tools, news, and articles so that health care professionals and patients can find the information they need. All in one place: www.rxassist.org

To receive a copy of Directory of Prescription Drug Patient Assistance Programs call 1-800-762-4636

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them. Among the organizations collaborating on this program is the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, the Lupus Foundation of America, the NAACP, and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the National Medical Association. To access the Partnership for Prescription Assistance by phone, call toll-free, 888-4PPA-NOW / 888-477-2669 or go to www.pparx.org

Note that the requirements for program eligibility vary. Some programs may be applied for directly by the patient, whereas other program applications must be initiated by the health care provider (physician, pharmacist or agency). Below are telephone numbers and internet sites you can contact to ask questions.

PRODUCT NAME	PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AND CONTACT INFORMATION	TYPE
Epivir HBV (lamuvidine)	GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals www.hepatitisbhelp.com www.gskforyou.com 866-PATIENT / 866-728-4368	Hepatitis B
Hepsera (adefovir dipivoxil)	Gilead Pharmaceuticals www.hepsera.com/reimbursement.aspx 800-226-2056	Hepatitis B
Baraclude (entecavir)	Bristol-Myers Squibb www.bmspaf.org 800-736-0003	Hepatitis B

PRODUCT NAME	PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AND CONTACT INFORMATION	TYPE
Tyzeka (telbivudine)	Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation www.idenix.com 877-8-TYZEKA / 877-889-9352	Hepatitis B
Pegasys (Peg Interferon alfa-2a) injection Pegasys/Copegus Combination (Peginterferon alfa-2a+Ribavirin)	Roche Pharmaceuticals http://www.rocheusa.com/programs/patientassist.asp 877-75ROCHE / 877-757-6243	Hepatitis B and C
Intron-A (Interferon alfa-2b recombinant) injection Rebetron (Ribavirin, capsules) Peg-Intron (Peg Interferon alfa-2b) powder for injection	Schering Pharmaceuticals www.hep-help.com/peg/application www.beincharge.com Commitment to Care 800-521-7157	Hepatitis C
RibaPak™ (ribavirin) tablets	Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals www.3riverspharma.com/pat_riba.html RibaCare® 866-650-RIBA	Hepatitis C
Infergen (Interferon alfacon-1)	Valeant Pharmaceuticals Infergent Aspire Nursing and Reimbursement Support program www.infergen.com/5-Aspire/6-Reimbursement.html 888-MOVE-FWD / 888-668-3393	Hepatitis C

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The medications to treat hepatitis C are very expensive. There are many assistance programs that can help you with the cost of the medicines including the insurance co-payments. Talk to and work closely with your medical provider to access these programs.

Umbrella Organizations

Chronic Disease Fund	1-877-968-7233	www.cdfund.org/Default.aspx
Needymeds.org	1-800-503-6897	www.needymeds.org
Partnership for Prescription Assistance	1-888-477-2669	www.pparx.org

Patient Access Network Foundation	1-866-316-PANF (7263)	www.panfoundation.org/
Patient Advocate Foundation Co-Pay Relief	1-866-512-3861	www.copays.org/diseases/hepatitis-c
Vaccines		
Merck-VAQTA – hepatitis A vaccine; RECOMBIVAX HB – hepatitis B vaccine	1-800-293-3881	www.merck.com/merckhelps/vaccines/home.html
GSK - HAVRIX – hepatitis A vaccine; ENGERIX-B – hepatitis B vaccine; TWINRIX – combination hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine	1-877-822-2911	www.gsk-vap.com/
Pharmaceutical Companies		
AbbVie	1-844-2proCeed	https://www.viekira.com/proceed-program
Genentech	1-866- 422-2377	www.genentech-access.com/hcp
Gilead	1-855-769-7284	www.mysupportpath.com/
Johnson & Johnson Patient Assistance Foundation	1-800-652-6227	www.jjpaf.org
Olysio Support (Co-pays)	1-855-5-OLYSIO	www.olsysio.com
Kadmon Pharmaceuticals (Keys Program)	1-888-668-3393	www.hcvadvocate.org/community
Moderiba Ribavirin	1.844.MODERIBA (1.844.663.3742)	www.moderiba.com/patient-support/ financial

Understanding Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits

Understanding Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits

Medicaid - Medicare

In all states, Medicaid provides health coverage for some low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. In some states, the program covers adults/families below a certain income level. Medicaid programs must follow federal guidelines, but benefits, coverage, and patient costs vary from state-to-state. Some Medicaid programs pay for health care directly. Others pay for or provide care through private insurance companies or managed care plans.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older and certain younger people with disabilities. Hence, retired “baby boomers” (over the age of 65) that need HCV treatment may be covered by Medicare. Some low income persons on Medicare may be eligible for Medicaid benefits from their state. These people are generally referred to as Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligibles and it can be difficult for individuals to navigate the overlap of these two programs.

Medicaid Expansion

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides states with additional federal funding to expand their Medicaid programs to cover adults under 65 who earn up to 133% of the federal poverty level. To find out if your state is expanding access to Medicaid, visit: <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-if-my-state-is-not-expanding-medicaid/> .

Prescription Drug Benefits Under Medicaid

Although pharmacy coverage is an optional benefit under federal Medicaid law, all states currently provide coverage for outpatient prescription drugs to categorically eligible individuals and most other enrollees within their Medicaid programs. The Medicaid prescription drug programs include the management, development and administration of systems and [data collection](#) necessary to operate the [Medicaid Drug Rebate program](#), the [Federal Upper Limit](#) calculation for generic drugs and the [Drug Utilization Review program](#). For more information about these topics click on the highlighted terms above or, visit: [Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/Prescription-Drugs](#).

Preferred Drug List or Medicaid Formulary

Medicaid programs generally have a centralized list of medications covered for reimbursement. This may be called the Medicaid Formulary or Preferred Drug List. Generally speaking, the Preferred Drug List is made accessible to health care providers and the general public via the Medicaid Program’s website or newsletter. Here is a link to the websites of state Medicaid programs: [Medicaid-CHIP-Program-State/By-State](#). If you don’t find a good link to your State Medicaid Program’s Preferred Drug List on this site, Google (state) Medicaid Preferred Drug list.

Medicaid Covered Outpatient Prescription Drug Reimbursement Policies

For information about state-by-state cost sharing for medication expenses, visit: [Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/Prescription-Drugs/Reimbursement-chart-.pdf](#) .

Useful Hepatitis Websites

National Organization and Resources

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Viral Hepatitis home page provides links to hepatitis fact sheets, resource center, on-line training, reports, and recommendations.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/index.htm>

CDC Hepatitis Coordinator Website Portal

This website serves as a home page for Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator's (VHPC) with a list of AVHPCs, link to each state's hepatitis webpage, glossary, bibliography, and a host of other resources.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/resource/coordinators_portal.htm

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

This weekly report provides updated information on specific diseases as reported by state and territorial health departments. It is a source for updated CDC recommendations, reports, and other items of interest to the public health community.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/?s_cid=mmwr_online

Immunization Action Coalition

Information about immunizations; vaccine information sheets, brochures, vaccine recommendations and other related resources. You can access several publications such as IAC Express, Hep Express and Needle Tips. Hepprograms.org is a catalogue of different hepatitis-based programs around the country.

<http://immunize.org/> and <http://www.hepprograms.org/hepexpress/>

American Liver Foundation

This website provides information on liver diseases, as well as advocacy for education, treatment, and research funding.

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/>

Free Hepatitis C Helpline 800-GO-LIVER (800-465-4837) Monday through Friday 9a.m.-7p.m. EST, manned by trained professionals in liver diseases.

HepC Guide Forward Motion

Learn more about hepatitis C and how it affects your body at www.hepcinfo.com

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hepatitis Central

This website is dedicated to providing information for hepatitis C patients and their families, caregivers and health professionals.

www.hepatitis-central.com

The Liver Transplant Support Forum - National Institutes of Health

www.nih.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The VA is the largest single provider of medical care to people with hepatitis C in the United States and provides the highest quality, comprehensive care to veterans.

www.hepatitis.va.gov

Living with Hepatitis C

HCV Advocate

This website provides information on hepatitis C treatment options, articles, newsletters, and resources for people living with HCV.

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/>

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors

The Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to improve the lives of people living with hepatitis C through information and awareness.

<http://caringambassadors.org/>

<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/>

Hep C Primer

Provides answers to hepatitis C and liver support questions.

<http://www.hepcprimer.com/>

Hep C Vets

This website is provided by past and presents members of the United States military with hepatitis C (HCV) to assist fellow retirees/veterans / active military and dependents with awareness to the hepatitis C virus exposure methods during military service.

www.hcvets.com

Hep-C Alert

Hep-C Alert raises awareness, provides health education, counseling, testing, and linkage services to more than 30,000 people throughout the U.S.

www.hep-c-alert.org

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hep C Connection

Hep C Connection is a hepatitis C-focused organization that provides community education, patient support, and disease prevention strategies.

www.hepc-connection.org

HIV and Hepatitis C

Mountain Plains AIDS Education and Training Center

The AIDS Education and Training Center has materials and resources on HIV and hepatitis co-infection.

<http://www.mpaetc.org/>

HIV and Hepatitis

This website sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, provides information on HIV and viral hepatitis. The focus is on clinical issues related to HIV, viral hepatitis, and co-infection.

<http://www.hivandhepatitis.org/>

National AIDS Treatment and Advocacy Project

This website provides information about HIV, HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection.

<http://natap.org/>

Hepatitis B

Asian Liver Center

The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University addresses the high rate of hepatitis B and liver cancer in Asians and Asian Americans.

www.liver.stanford.edu

Hepatitis B Foundation

The organization dedicated to finding a cure and to improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B.

www.hepb.org

Global Hepatitis

World Health Organization (WHO)

This website provides fact sheets, information about travel and epidemiological data about viral hepatitis around the world.

<http://www.who.int/topics/hepatitis/en/>

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hepatitis Foundation International

This website educates the public and health care providers about viral hepatitis and its prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Educational videos and other resources are available.

<http://www.hepfi.org/>

Clinical Information

Hepatitis Web Study

This website provides interactive, case-based modules related to the clinical care of persons with viral hepatitis.

<http://depts.washington.edu/hepstudy/>

American Gastroenterological Association

This is the website for the professional association of gastroenterologists and its purpose is to advance the science and practice of gastroenterology.

<http://www.gastro.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=2>

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

This organization is for physicians and others striving to prevent and to cure diseases of the liver.

<https://www.aasld.org/eweb/StartPage.aspx>

Center Watch: Clinical Trials Listing Service

This website offers a state-by-state listing of clinical trials for viral hepatitis.

<http://www.centerwatch.com/patient/studies/cat79.html>

Hepatitis and Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction Coalition

The Harm Reduction Coalition is committed to reducing drug-related harm among individuals and communities by initiating and promoting harm reduction education, interventions, and community organizing.

<http://www.harmreduction.org/>

Harm Reduction Journal

Harm Reduction Journal focuses on prevalent patterns of psychoactive drug use, the public policies meant to control them and the search for effective methods of reducing the adverse medical, public health, and social consequences associated with both drugs and drug policies.

<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/home>.

Find a Drug Treatment Program

<http://drugabuse.com/usa/drug-abuse/illinois/>

Useful Hepatitis Websites

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)

Resource for information about hepatitis integration, legislative updates that impact viral hepatitis, advocacy issues, and other topics.

<http://nastad.org/Programs/viralhepatitis/>

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is a coalition of public, private and voluntary organizations dedicated to reducing the incidence of infection, morbidity and mortality from viral hepatitis in the U.S. through strategic planning, leadership, advocacy and research.

<http://www.nvhr.org/>.

Glossary of Important Terms

Abdomen – The portion of the body located between the chest and the pelvis. Contains the stomach, lower part of the esophagus, small and large intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen, pancreas and bladder.

Acetaminophen – A type of medication used to relieve pain and fever such as Tylenol.

Acute illness – Acute refers to the short-term, initial stage of infection.

Adipose tissues – Fatty tissues.

Albumin – A protein produced by the liver that circulates in the blood.

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) – A protein produced by cancerous liver cells.

Anemia – Condition in which there is a reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells, usually resulting in a decrease in the amount of oxygen in the blood.

Antibody – A molecule produced by the immune system in response to a foreign body such as a virus or bacteria. Antibodies circulate in the blood to protect against infection.

Antigen – A foreign substance the body's immune system identifies as potentially harmful.

Ascites – Fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

Asymptomatic – Without symptoms or signs of illness.

Autoimmune – A condition in which the body produces antibodies against normal parts of the body to such an extent as to cause tissue injury.

Benign – Not recurrent or progressive.

Bile – A fluid that is stored in the gallbladder for release when needed. Bile is necessary for the digestion of fats – it dissolves fat into small globules (similar to the way that detergent lifts oil off greasy plates). Bile also assists in the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (i.e., vitamins A, D, E and K) and converts beta-carotene to vitamin A.

Bilirubin – A product of red blood cells.

Biopsy – The removal of a small piece of living tissue for examination under a microscope. Usually performed to establish a diagnosis.

Chemotherapy – Chemical agents that have a specific and toxic effect upon the disease-causing microorganism.

Cholesterol – A soft, waxy substance found in all parts of the body. It is made in the liver and is also found in animal and dairy products.

Chronic illness – An illness that lasts longer than six months.

Cirrhosis – Extensive scarring of the liver.

Decompensated cirrhosis – A condition in which the liver becomes so scarred that blood can no longer flow through it.

Encephalopathy – Disease of the brain. Symptoms include confusion, disorientation and insomnia and can progress to coma.

Endemic – A disease that occurs continuously in a particular population.

Epidemiology – Investigation of the causes of and ways to control, diseases.

Glossary of Important Terms

Esophagus – The tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach.

Fibrous – Composed of or containing fibers.

Fulminant – Sudden onset, most severe.

Gastroenterologist – A doctor that specializes in the function and disorders of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, intestines and liver.

Glucose – A sugar formed during digestion.

Glycogen – A substance found in the liver and muscles that is easily converted to glucose for energy.

Hemodialysis – The process of filtering the accumulated waste products from the blood of a person, whose kidneys are not functioning properly, using a kidney machine.

Hepatitis – Inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by a variety of agents, including viral infections, bacterial invasion and physical or chemical agents. Symptoms include fever, jaundice and, usually, an enlarged liver.

Hepatitis A – Formerly called infectious hepatitis, hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It is an acute infection and does not progress to chronic hepatitis or cirrhosis. Most patients recover completely within six to ten weeks. Hepatitis A is spread mainly via feces and contaminated food and water. A vaccine against the hepatitis A virus is available.

Hepatitis B – Formerly called serum hepatitis, it is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). About 10% of cases progress to chronic infection. It is transmitted through sexual contact with an infected individual, injection drug use and other exposure to infected body fluids. A vaccine against the hepatitis B virus is available.

Hepatitis C – A form of hepatitis that was previously known as non-A, non-B hepatitis and is caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 26,000 new cases each year, a marked decline in new infections since the virus was identified in 1988. There is no vaccine against hepatitis C virus.

Hepatitis D – Also called delta hepatitis, hepatitis D is caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV). A person cannot be infected with HDV without current or simultaneous infection with hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis D infection is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in recipients of multiple blood transfusions, including patients with hemophilia or undergoing renal dialysis and among those who share contaminated needles.

Hepatitis E – Also referred to as enterically transmitted non-A, non-B hepatitis, hepatitis E is caused by a waterborne virus (HEV). It is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in developing countries. Hepatitis E infection results in an acute infection much like hepatitis A. It does not cause chronic infection. It is spread by fecal contamination in water.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) – Liver cancer.

Hepatocytes – Liver cells.

Hepatologist – A doctor who specializes in the study and treatment of liver disease.

Immunoglobulin – One of a family of closely related, though not identical, proteins capable of acting as antibodies.

Immunology – The branch of medicine that focuses on the immune system, immunity and allergy.

Glossary of Important Terms

Jaundice – Yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

Laparoscopic biopsy – A medical procedure performed when a tube (laparoscope) is inserted through an incision in the abdomen and a piece of tissue is removed.

Lipid – Component of fat.

Lipoproteins – A complex of lipids and proteins that carries lipids around the body.

Liver – The largest glandular organ in the body. It has many functions that include, but are not limited to, the production of protein and cholesterol, the production of bile, the storage of sugar in the form of glycogen and the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats and proteins. The liver also breaks down and excretes many medications.

Malaise – Discomfort, uneasiness often indicates infection.

Nucleoside analogues – A class of HIV medications.

Pancreas – A long, irregularly shaped gland lying behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and produces insulin.

Pathologist – A specialist in diagnosing the abnormal changes in tissues removed at operations and postmortem examinations.

Perinatal – Concerning the period beginning after the 28th week of pregnancy through 28 days following birth.

Perinatal Transmission – Transmission of an infectious disease from mother to infant. It can happen in the uterus, or during or after birth.

Peripheral edema – Fluid build up in the feet and ankles.

Phospholipid – A phosphorus-containing lipid found in cell membranes.

Polymerase inhibitors – A compound that stops an essential enzyme needed for viral replication.

Portal hypertension – High pressure in the liver, intestines and spleen.

Prophylaxis – A type of treatment to prevent disease or stop it from spreading.

Protease inhibitor – A compound that breaks down proteins, inhibiting the replication of viruses, such as HIV.

Prothrombin time (PT) – A measure of blood clotting.

Serologic testing – Blood test.

Transvenous biopsy – A procedure during which a tube is inserted into a vein in the neck, then a needle is put into the catheter to remove tissue samples.

Ultrasound – A test that uses a wand, placed on a body part, such as the abdomen and moved back and forth to examine the shape, size and appearance of the liver.

Variceal bleeding – Bleeding from blood vessels in the esophagus. This may occur in patients with cirrhosis.