



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Viral Hepatitis

Provider Information

Spotlight

Viral Hepatitis, a Serious Public Health Threat

We are asking for your partnership to reduce the burden of viral hepatitis among Hoosiers. In this issue is a summary of latest recommendations on screening, vaccination, treatment and information on provider training opportunities and resources.

Viral hepatitis is a serious public health threat, tens of thousands of people are newly infected with viral hepatitis each year according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC's 2021 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report shows that the number of hepatitis A and B decreased in annual cases, while hepatitis C doubled during 2014-2020, and increased 7% from 2020-2021.

The Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States calls for $\geq 80\%$ of people with hepatitis C to achieve viral clearance by 2030. In order to work towards the United States hepatitis elimination goals increased access is needed for diagnosis, treatment and preventive services.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

Updated Recommendations

Recent updates in screening recommendations, vaccination, treatment, provider training options and other useful resources include:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated hepatitis B screening recommendations.
 - Hepatitis B screenings are now recommended for all adults 18 years and older. A triple panel test should be requested at least once in their lifetime.
 - Screening should also be done for anyone who is requesting hepatitis B testing, regardless of risk factors.
 - New recommendations also include expanded periodic risk-based testing and screening during each pregnancy. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-b/hcp/diagnosis-testing/?CDC_AAref_Val
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has updated the recommendations surrounding hepatitis B (HepB) vaccination. The ACIP now recommends an expanded age range for universal HepB vaccinations, which includes:
 - adults aged 19-59 years
 - adults 60 and above with risk factors for hepatitis B
 - those without identified risk factors but seeking protection
- HepB vaccinations should be reported through Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP). This helps ensure that false positive results due to recent vaccination are not treated as potential HepB cases. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7113a1.htm?s_cid=mm7113a1_w
- The Indiana Communicable Disease Rule was updated in 2023. Updates included changes to viral hepatitis reporting. To view the updated provider specific reporting guidance on viral hepatitis please visit: <https://www.in.gov/health/idepd/communicable-disease-reporting/>
- FSSA Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning has removed all prescribing restrictions for HCV treatment naïve individuals.
<https://provider.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/Bulletins/BT201916.pdf>

Connect to Cure

People who are living with HCV can now be linked to Connect to Cure. Connect to Cure provides free HCV care coordination services.

[Home - Hepatitis-c \(connecttocure.org\)](https://connecttocure.org)



Provider Training Resources

- Indiana Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (IN-HAMP) is a medical education training program for clinicians that are new to treating hepatitis C (HCV). If you are a clinician and interested in learning more about IN-HAMP you can email inhamp@iu.edu or enroll in Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 and both hepatitis C ECHO sessions by clicking the following link: <https://fairbanks.indianapolis.iu.edu/research-centers/echo/in-hamp-echo.html>
- ECHO trainings with specialty in hepatitis C education will continue to convene on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 12:30-2:00 p.m. ET via Zoom, You can register for ECHO sessions by clicking the following link: <https://fairbanks.indianapolis.iu.edu/research-centers/echo/echo-programs/hcv-echo.html>
- The National Clinical Consultations Center provides no cost clinician-to-clinician advice on hepatitis virus mono-infections and co-infections management. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT, call: (844) HEP-INFO <https://nccc.ucsf.edu/clinician-consultation/hepatitis-c-management/>
- Informational fact sheets and posters for your patients and offices can be found at <https://www.in.gov/health/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/viral-hepatitis-surveillance/> and https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/public-resources/?CDC_AAref_Val.html

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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