



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Colleague:

Beginning May 3, 2024, New York State will require that all persons 18 years of age and older and persons under the age of 18 with a risk, be offered a screening test for hepatitis C. These new requirements align New York State with the current [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HCV screening recommendations](#).

Nationally, new cases of hepatitis C are on the rise, particularly among adults of reproductive age. The number of new hepatitis C infections has doubled since 2014. Injection drug use is the main risk for new infections. In 2022, most hepatitis C infections occurred among adults 20-39 years of age. Almost half of the 2.2 million people living with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection. An estimated 116,000 New Yorkers are living with hepatitis C. Testing is the first step to accessing curative treatment. Without treatment, approximately 15-20% of adults with chronic hepatitis C infection will develop progressive liver fibrosis and cirrhosis. Hepatitis C infection can be cured. Over 90 percent of people infected with hepatitis C can be cured with 8-12 weeks of oral therapy. Treatment of hepatitis C is associated with reductions in mortality among persons with chronic hepatitis C.

The New York State hepatitis C screening requirements include the following:

- Every individual age eighteen and older, or younger than eighteen, if there is evidence or indication of risk activity, be offered a hepatitis C screening test.
- If the hepatitis C screening test is reactive, a hepatitis C ribonucleic acid test (RNA) must be performed on the same specimen, or a second specimen collected at the same time as the initial hepatitis C screening test specimen, to confirm diagnosis of current infection.
- Individuals with a detectable hepatitis C ribonucleic acid test are offered follow-up hepatitis C health care and treatment or are referred to a health care provider who can provide follow-up hepatitis C health care and treatment.

Settings and clinicians required to make the offer include:

- Inpatient and emergency departments of an Article 28 licensed hospital.
- Outpatient departments of an Article 28 licensed hospital providing primary care services.
- Diagnostic and treatment centers licensed under article 28 providing primary care services.
- Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners or midwives providing primary care.

All persons identified with hepatitis C should receive follow-up medical care and hepatitis C treatment. Treatment is recommended for **ALL** individuals with hepatitis C infection, including

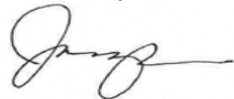
persons living with HIV and those with active substance use. Currently available direct-acting antiviral treatments can cure most people in 8–12 weeks.

In addition to hepatitis C screening among all adults and persons under 18 with a risk, New York State will also require providers caring for pregnant people to order a hepatitis C screening test during each pregnancy.

New York State Public Health Law requires providers to report all new hepatitis C infections to the local health department in the county where the client resides.

Finally, this new hepatitis C screening requirement will allow [New York State to eliminate hepatitis C](#) as a public health problem by 2030. If you have questions about the new hepatitis C screening requirements email hepatabc@health.ny.gov

Sincerely,



Joseph Kerwin
Director
AIDS Institute

Resources:

[New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute Clinical Education Initiative](#)

[New York State Department of Health Viral Hepatitis Web Resources](#)

[New York Cures Hep C Campaign Materials.](#)

[Guidance on Hepatitis C Reflex Testing](#)

[New York State Department of Health Guidelines on the Management and Treatment of Hepatitis C](#)

[American Association for the Study of Liver Disease](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hepatitis C: By the numbers.
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/Hepatitis-c-by-the-numbers.pdf>.

Lewis KC, Barker LK, Jiles RB, Gupta N. Estimated prevalence and awareness of hepatitis C virus infection among US adults: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, January 2017-March 2020. Clin Infect Dis 2023; 77:1413-1415.