



Integrating HCV Testing & Linkage to Care in Tennessee

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Objectives

- HCV Testing Pilot
- Statewide HCV Testing
- Viral Hepatitis Navigator Program



HCV Testing Pilot

HCV Testing Pilot

- Supplemental grant funding
 - One time funding from June 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016 to characterize ongoing HCV epidemic
 - Assure persons living with HCV are identified, linked into care
 - “Opt out” HCV screening & testing at 3 Metropolitan Health Departments in Eastern Tennessee
 - Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics
 - Family Planning Clinic
- Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) Laboratory
 - HCV Testing and Lab-Based Surveillance by Global Hepatitis Outbreak Surveillance Technology (GHOST)

HCV Education and Support for Pilot

- Trainings and On-Site Support
- Coding Encounters
- Collecting Risk Factors
- Weekly/Monthly Conference Calls
- Developed Hepatitis C Testing & Counseling Tools
 - General information
 - Testing & counseling messages
- Developed Specimen Collection and Transport Guidance
- Referrals Process

HCV Testing Pilot: Results

- 4,753 persons tested
 - 8.4% Ab positive
 - 74.1% RNA positive

Risk Factor	Total n (%) N=4753	HCV Ab (+) n (%) N=397	HCV Ab (-) n (%) N=4356	P Value
Injection drug use	425 (8.9)	276 (64.9)	149 (35.1)	<0.0001
Intranasal drug use	967 (20.3)	295 (30.5)	672 (69.5)	<0.0001
Tattoo / piercing	1092 (23.0)	188 (17.2)	904 (82.8)	<0.0001
Incarceration	1309 (27.5)	303 (23.1)	1006 (76.9)	<0.0001
Transfusion	62 (1.3)	13 (21.0)	49 (79.0)	0.0003
No risk factors	2598 (54.7)	39 (1.5)	2559 (98.5)	<0.0001



Statewide HCV Testing

HCV Testing: TDH Resources

- Health Department Roll-Out (April 1, 2017)
 - HCV testing available local county health departments, Statewide
 - Record Risk Factor(s) – Patient Billing Management Information System (PTBMIS) supplemental screen
 - Clinics – Primary Care, STD, FP, others...
 - Provide linkage to care via Viral Hepatitis Navigators
 - Uptake varied by region
- Protocols
 - Nursing Protocol
 - Coding Encounters
 - HCV Testing & Training Manual

HCV Testing: Local Health Departments

- One time test for all patients that are:
 - Born from 1945 to 1965
 - Identified as high risk
 - Seeking evaluation and/or treatment for STIs
 - Requesting HCV testing or counseling
- Persons with ongoing risk for HCV infection may have repeat screening at intervals of ≥ 12 months, including:
 - Injection drug use (even once)
 - Illicit intranasal drug use (even once)
 - History of incarceration
 - Receipt of an unregulated tattoo
 - High-risk sexual behaviors (multiple sex partners, unprotected sex or sex with an HCV-infected person or an injection drug user)



HCV Navigator Program

Background

- Viral Hepatitis Regional Responsibilities (**Existing**)
 - Field and contact investigation
 - Perinatal HBV
 - Acute HAV, Acute HBV, Acute HCV
- Viral Hepatitis Navigators (**New**)
 - 8 new positions established across Tennessee in highest morbidity regions
 - Provide Referrals for HCV (+) Individuals Identified via
 - Health Department testing
 - Acute HCV investigations
 - Implementation models may vary from region to region
 - VHPC, point of contact

Training

- Navigator In-Person Training
 - All navigators and their supervisors
- Monthly Calls
- Navigator Training Manual
 - Overview of VH and reportable diseases
 - Screening & diagnosis
 - Post-test counseling (checklist & flow chart)
 - Interview techniques

Navigation Services

- Identify
- Engage
- Refer
- Document

Step 1: Identify

- HCV RNA (+) individuals identified via
 - Health Department
 - Imported from Patient Billing Management Information System (PTBMIS) to Research Electronic Database Capture (REDCap) weekly
 - Acute HCV Case investigations or any other clients navigated
 - Navigators manually enter these cases
- Referral to navigators may vary
 - Notification process defined by each region/metro

Step 2: Engage

- Contact Client (per Region/Metro procedures)
 - Face to Face
 - Phone
 - Letter
- Utilization of Facebook (per Region/Metro procedures)
- Cultivate Rapport with Clients

Step 3: Refer

- Conduct Navigation Services
 - Provide list of referral services without bias
 - Client contacts providers to schedule appointment
- Client Centered Goals and Behaviors
- Identify Steps to Reduce Barriers and Increase Access
- Positive Reinforcement for Successes

Provider Directory

KNOX COUNTY

HCV Providers Directory

11/17/2017

First	Last	Credentials & Specialities	Practice/Facility	Address	City	County	Phone	Other

Knox HCV Providers

Knox Substance Abuse Providers

Knox Mental Health Providers



Step 4: Documentation

- REDCap
 - **Track & document all navigation services**
 - Start date July 3, 2017 to enter all navigation services in REDCap
 - Clients tested in health department (RNA + cases) import every Monday in REDCap
 - Document all acute HCV cases, regardless of testing site (or any other client navigated)
 - Manually enter in REDCap
 - On-site technical assistance available from Central Office upon request



Thank You!