Viral Hepatitis in the U.S.:
Federal Partner Update

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“Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C”

- Under-appreciated health concern
- Most infected persons do not know it
- Need to boost provider knowledge
- Federal government can play a key role in promoting diagnosis and appropriate care
The Evolution of Our National Response

2010

2011

2014

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

Updated

2014-2016
2020 Goals of the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

- Increase the proportion of persons who are aware of their HBV infection from 33% to 66%
- Increase the proportion of persons who are aware of their HCV infection from 45% to 66%
- Reduce the number of new HCV infections by 25%
- Eliminate mother-to-child HBV transmission
Fostering Partnerships and Collaboration

- Federal Viral Hepatitis Implementation Group
  - 24 members from 4 departments
    - Health and Human Services
    - Housing and Urban Development
    - Justice/Federal Bureau of Prisons
    - Veterans Affairs

- Technical consultations with key stakeholders
  - HCV in young people who inject drugs (2/2013)
  - Launch of the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan Community Stakeholder Consultation (4/2014)
  - HCV in African American Communities (3/2015)
  - Perinatal HBV elimination in the U.S. (9/2015)
## Federal Partners’ Role in Developing Guidelines

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<tr>
<th>Federal Partner</th>
<th>Clinical Guidelines</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>NIDDK Staff participate in the ongoing development of <a href="#">clinical guidelines</a> for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C under the auspices of the AASLD and the IDSA. These guidelines are updated every 3 months.</td>
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<td>Office of Population Affairs</td>
<td>OPA, in collaboration with CDC, released “Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs” including recommendations for HCV screening and HBV vaccination for individuals under age 19 and unvaccinated adults.</td>
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<td>Veterans Administration</td>
<td>VA updated screening guidelines for HBV infection to reflect current CDC and USPSTF recs and published an <a href="#">Information Letter</a> on the care &amp; treatment of HBV infection. VA’s “Chronic HCV Infection: Treatment Considerations” was launched in March 2014 and is updated continually</td>
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CDC conducted the following activities to improve understanding of perinatal HBV infection:

- Analysis of data from the Enhanced Perinatal HBV Prevention Program from 2008-2013 determining that 95% of uninfected infants born to Hepatitis B-infected mothers responded to the primary HBV vaccine series.
- Analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the U.S. Perinatal HBV Prevention Program concluding that it increased quality-adjusted life years and led to reductions in the number of infections, thereby representing a cost-effective use of resources.
- Development of models to estimate the annual number of perinatal HBV infections. An estimated 952 infections occurred in 2009, suggesting that a substantial number of infections are not identified by the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program.

VA continued to maintain a robust surveillance program for hepatitis C, including the release of State of Care for Veterans with Hepatitis C, 2014, a summative analysis of hepatitis C care within VA from 2002-2013.
Contributing to Viral Hepatitis Research

NIH conducted research to:

- Understand viral hepatitis progression and liver cancer markers
- Advance approaches to HBV testing and treatment
  - Hepatitis B Research Network (ongoing), natural history and effective approaches to treatment
  - HBV screening and vaccination for Korean Americans via a community based study
- Examine perinatal HCV transmission & infection
- Understand strategies to reduce new HCV infections and increase screening, vaccination, and access to treatment among people who inject drugs

- FDA published findings on T-cell memory induced by vaccination against HCV to help predict the success of experimental vaccines
Federal partners developed tools and evaluated HIT strategies to expand the use of health information technology (HIT) to improve viral hepatitis services.

- Using a community-based participatory approach, the NIMHD is pilot testing culturally proficient HIT intervention strategies to improve HBV vaccination, screening rates, and linkages to care among underserved Asian Americans visiting a community clinic. The planned completion date is December 2016.

- Under an inter-agency agreement with CDC, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) worked to develop electronic specifications of threeAMA—Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (AMA-PCPI) measures:
  - AMA-PCPI measure 9a: Screening for HCV patients at high risk.
  - AMA-PCPI measure 9b: Annual HCV screening for patients who are active injection-drug users.
  - AMA-PCPI measure 9c: Referral to treatment for patients identified with HCV infection.

- ONC is developing electronic clinical decision support (CDS) tools designed to help healthcare providers better screen and care for HCV patients.
HHS Regional Offices

Regional Health Administrators (RHAs) and their staff identified opportunities to integrate activities in support of the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy including:

- Regional Resource Coordinators (RRCs) participated — and, in many cases, helped to coordinate — over 25 events across the nation to ensure inclusion of viral hepatitis in HIV and other regional prevention activities.
- Educated providers and communities on issues relating to the Affordable Care Act and viral hepatitis.
- Increased awareness and education in communities disproportionately affected by viral hepatitis.
- Region VIII National HIV/AIDS Strategy workgroup spearheaded an effort with the State Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinators from each of the six states in the region to further explore how to integrate viral hepatitis into regional collaboration. In April 2014, a day-long meeting in Denver led to the creation of a toolkit and a series of webinars on the alignment of HCV prevention, substance use disorder treatment resources, and harm reduction efforts.
HRSA’s BPHC, in collaboration with CDC, funded Partnerships for Care (P4C) to enhance integration of viral hepatitis screening into primary care. The 3-year project supports the integration of HIV services into primary care through partnerships between health centers and health departments in 4 states and includes support for HBV & HCV screening and referrals to care.

Health centers monitored viral hepatitis testing & diagnoses in health centers

HRSA supported health centers in addressing viral hepatitis through training, technical assistance, and information dissemination
Promote viral hepatitis prevention and screening in behavioral health care settings.

- SAMHSA provided an estimated $850,000 to 34 grantees to vaccinate vulnerable adults for hepatitis A and B. In 2014, for the first time, a SAMHSA grant required — rather than offering — use of grant funds for viral hepatitis activities.
- SAMHSA HCV Screening Grants pilot initiative funded 9 Opioid Treatment Program grantees to implement HCV screening/testing in their facilities.
- The 10 SAMHSA-funded Addiction Technology Transfer Center’s (ATTCs) 10 regional centers developed a new website, HCV Current Initiative; a face-to-face training curriculum, “Increasing Hepatitis C Knowledge for Behavioral Health and Medical Providers”; an online HCV course and a training calendar for HCV trainings. The nationwide network of trainers will be available to provide hepatitis C training for health center staff, and others who work with PWID.

- On July 25, 2014, SAMHSA’s Chief Medical Officer released an annual Dear Colleague Letter that discussed the need for HCV screening and testing among persons with substance use and mental health disorders. Delivered to over 53,000 individuals including state Mental Health Commissioners, state Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, SAMHSA grantees, etc., the letter described the rationale for HCV testing, the recent USPSTF endorsement of hepatitis C screening, and provided contact information for State Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinators who can assist with implementation of screening and testing programs.
“A nation committed to combating the silent epidemic of viral hepatitis”

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