

HEPATITIS C

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HCV SCREENING

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute offers a number free trainings and webinars on HCV screening related topics. For a list of trainings and a training calendar, go to www.hivtrainingny.org. Other HCV screening related trainings include:

- Ensuring Competencies for Hepatitis C Testing (in person training)
- Hepatitis C Screening, Diagnosis and Linkage to Care (in person training)
- Implementing HCV rapid testing (archived webcast)

The New York City Health Department also offers free in-person trainings for direct service staff on hepatitis C-related topics including hepatitis C point-of-care testing training, overdose prevention, motivational interviewing, and hepatitis 101. Find more information or register for trainings at: <https://nychealthtraining.org/>

Other resources on HCV screening can be found at the web sites listed below:

- [NYSDOH AIDS Institute Clinical Education Initiative](#)
- [HepCure](#)
- [Empire Liver Foundation](#)

TRAINING FOR HEPATITIS C MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT

The following resources are available to increase the knowledge and skills of clinical staff to manage and treat HCV.

NYSDOH Hepatitis C Clinical Guideline – [Treatment of Chronic HCV Infection with Direct-Acting Anti-viral](#). This guideline on treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection was developed by the New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) AIDS Institute (AI) to guide primary care providers and other practitioners in New York State in treating patients with chronic HCV infection.

NYSDOH AIDS Institute Clinical Education Initiative. The [Clinical Education Initiative](#) (CEI) is designed to enhance the capacity of New York's diverse health care workforce to deliver clinical services to improve health outcomes related to HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis C. CEI offer a hepatitis C preceptorship program each May and a toll-free number (866-637-2342) for clinicians in New York State to discuss PEP, PrEP, HIV, HCV and STD management with a specialist.

Other resources on managing and treating HCV can be found at the web sites below:

- [Empire Liver Foundation](#)

- [HepCure](#)

NYS PROVIDER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

The NYSDOH AIDS Institute has developed criteria for defining experienced HCV clinicians to ensure that patients are being treated by clinicians with the appropriate level of expertise to deliver the necessary care to persons with HCV that meets current quality standards. The criteria were developed by the NYS HCV clinical guidelines committee. The criteria of an experienced HCV provider have been reviewed by both NYS Medicaid and Managed Care Organizations. The criteria and a Q/A document on the criteria can be found on the [AIDS Institute's Clinical Resource Web site](#).

To assist providers in meeting the required CME to be considered an experienced HCV provider, the **Empire Liver Foundation** offers a 10 CME/CNE/CEU [training series](#) designed to prepare practicing MD, DO, NP, and PA clinical providers to provide HCV care and treatment and fulfill the education requirement for NYS Medicaid Provider Classification. The [Empire Liver Foundation](#) is dedicated to increasing community awareness of liver disease, providing education on liver disease to health care providers and patients and providing guidance to those who make policy decisions influencing the practice and science of liver disease.

EMR FLAG

The [National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable](#) has established a webpage with several EMR resources for health centers, including guidelines for developing EMR prompts for HCV testing among baby boomers.

HEPATITIS C RAPID TESTING

The NYSDOH AIDS Institute has a number of useful [HCV rapid testing resources](#) available online, including a comprehensive implementation guide and information on how to register as a Limited Service Laboratory, so that your health center can conduct HCV rapid testing, a CLIA waived test. Additionally, the AIDS Institute has an [online webcast](#) to assist program managers and supervisors in planning for the implementation of a Hepatitis C screening program using the FDA approved OraQuick HCV Rapid Antibody Test.

HEPATITIS C REFLEX TESTING

The NYSDOH AIDS Institute has established a [web page](#) with information and resources on HCV reflex testing, including a *Dear Colleague* letter, information on Medicaid coverage for reflex testing and links to commercial labs performing reflex testing.

The New York City Board of Health recently updated the New York City Health Code to require laboratories to routinely conduct an RNA hepatitis C virus test if the HCV antibody test is positive. Here is the formal [announcement](#).

eHEPQUAL

[eHEPQUAL](#) is a web-based application designed by the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute, to capture data and generate reports that enable health care providers to assess the quality of care provided to patients infected with the hepatitis C virus. For more information on eHEPQUAL check out the [web site](#) or send an email to ehpqual@health.ny.gov

340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM

The 340B Program is a Federal program administered through HRSA. The program enables covered entities to stretch scarce Federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services. Manufacturers participating in Medicaid, agree to provide outpatient drugs to covered entities at significantly reduced prices. Eligible health care organizations/covered entities are defined in statute and include HRSA-supported health centers and look-alikes, Ryan White clinics and State AIDS Drug Assistance programs, Medicare/Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals, children's hospitals, and other safety net providers. For more information on 340B, go to:

<https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/>

HepCure Webinar: “340B: A Safety Net Program” - Dr. Philip Manning, Senior Director of Pharmacy, Mount Sinai Health System. Click [here](#) to view the archived webinar.

HEPCURE

An innovative project of Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, HepCure is improving provider knowledge & patient engagement for chronic disease management in persons infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). The HepCure toolkit consists of the patient app, the provider dashboard, and the weekly webinar series. It is designed to address barriers for the effective care and treatment of HCV by providing web-based and smartphone enabled resources, navigation, consultation, and support for both patients and providers. The HepCure toolkit draws upon the experience of expert providers within the Mount Sinai Network, with support and development by Sinai AppLab, Mount Sinai Medical Center. HepCure was developed by the Mount Sinai

Division of Liver Diseases, Division of General Internal Medicine, and the Informatics for Research, Outcomes, and Quality initiative in the Division of Gastroenterology.

The HepCure patient app can be downloaded for free at the App Store or Google Play. Institutions interested in learning more about using the HepCure Provider Dashboard should contact hepcure@mountsinai.org for information regarding the terms of use. More information about HepCure for providers can be found at: <http://hepcure.org/provider/#a-stage>.

HepCure hosts a live webinar on an HCV-related topic each Tuesday from 4:30-5:30pm. Contact hepcure@mountsinai.org to be added to the email list. All webinars are archived on the hepcure.org web site. Additional resources include a 10-module beginner HCV provider training (<http://hepcure.org/beginners/>) webinar series that is CE accredited.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION

For information on the **NYS Overdose Prevention Program** including N-CAP, Opioid Overdose Program Directory and Opioid-related data in NYS, please go to: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid_overdose_prevention/index.htm

For additional information on the **Opioid Epidemic in NYS**, including knowing the risks, recognizing the signs of opioid and other drug dependence and prevention and treatment information for consumers, go to: https://www.health.ny.gov/community/opioid_epidemic/

For additional information on overdose resources, email the NYSDOH at: overdose@health.ny.gov

EXPANDED SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM - ESAP

[ESAP](#) serves to expand access to sterile hypodermic needles and syringes by allowing licensed pharmacies, health care facilities, and health care practitioners who can otherwise prescribe hypodermic needles or syringes to register with the NYSDOH to sell or furnish up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes to persons 18 years of age or older. Persons who are age 18 years or older may legally obtain and possess hypodermic needles and syringes through ESAP without a medical prescription.

Additional information about existing syringe exchange programs in NYS can be found [here](#).

BUPRENORPHINE

There are many **buprenorphine resources** in NYS. They include the following:

[New York State Department of Health](#). This website contains consumer information, such as fact sheets and a buprenorphine provider directory.

[New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services \(NYS OASAS\)](#). The NYS OASAS web site has general information on buprenorphine, as well as a provider locator and best practice models.

For information on buprenorphine resources, email

- New York State Department of Health: buprenorphine@health.ny.gov
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov

SUBSTANCE USE TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES

[NYSDOH AIDS Institute Education and Training Programs](#)

[NYS OASAS Training Catalog](#)

[NYS HIV Guideline web site](#)

[Harm Reduction Coalition Training Institute](#)

HEPATITIS C EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Free hepatitis C educational materials for consumers and providers are available through the New York State Department of Health. An educational materials order form is available [online](#).

Free hepatitis C educational materials for consumers and providers are available through the NYC Department of Health. An education materials order form is available [online](#).

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

New York State Department of Health

Colleen Flanigan
Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care
NYSDOH, AIDS Institute
Colleen.flanigan@health.ny.gov

Beth Weir
Hepatitis C Rapid Testing Program
NYSDOH, AIDS Institute
Beth.Weir@health.ny.gov

Allan Clear
Director, office of Drug User Health
NYSDOH, AIDS Institute

Allan.clear@health.ny.gov

Narelle Ellendon
Buprenorphine Coordinator
NYSDOH, AIDS Institute
Narelle.ellendon@health.ny.gov

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Nirah Johnson
NYCDOHMH, Viral Hepatitis
njohnso2@health.nyc.gov

This guide has been prepared by the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute; New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Viral Hepatitis Program and Mental Hygiene and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.