

Recommendations for Hepatitis C Screening and Treatment in People Who Use Drugs in New York City



Test people who use drugs (PWUD) for Hep C at least annually

Test Type	Test result	
	If positive (+)	If negative (-)
Antibody Test: Use to test people who have never tested Hep C positive.	Confirm with RNA Test (Reflex RNA testing is ideal)	Retest in 12 months with antibody test
RNA Test: Use to test people who have ever tested Hep C positive.	Link to Hep C medical care	Retest in 12 months with RNA test

All PWUD with Hep C should be evaluated for treatment



- Hep C is treated with oral medications in 8–12 weeks with few side effects. See the algorithm for the management and cure of Hep C infection at www.bit.ly/simplified-hepc.
- Over 90% of PWUD with Hep C who are treated achieve a cure, less than 5% get reinfected.
- Curing Hep C prevents ongoing transmission to drug-sharing and sexual partners.
- Patient-centered care practices including Hep C patient navigation can help PWUD get care and complete treatment. To find a program in NYC, visit: www.nyc.gov/health/hepc

Health Insurance approves Hep C medications for PWUD



- In NYS, there are no Hep C medication restrictions based on sobriety, stage of liver disease or prescriber experience. People actively using drugs or alcohol can be treated.
- Specialty pharmacies can support the medication prior authorization process.
- If health insurance denies medication coverage due to drug use, contact the New York State Office of Health Insurance Programs omcmail@health.state.ny.us

Prevent Hep C and Overdose



- Link people to harm reduction and syringe service programs iduha.org/nyc-sep-map
- Link people to medication-assisted treatment, such as buprenorphine nyc.gov/nycwell
- Provide Naloxone nyc.gov/naloxone and prevention tips www.bit.ly/opioid-overdose-basics

Resources

- ▶ To find Hep C patient navigation programs and programs for uninsured in NYC, visit: nyc.gov/health/hepc
- ▶ Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) Hepatitis C and Drug User Health Center of Excellence: www.ceitraining.org
- ▶ American Association for the Study of Liver Disease - Identification and Management of Hepatitis C in People Who Inject Drugs: hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/pwid
- ▶ For more information email: hep@health.nyc.gov