

Background

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). HCV is transmitted primarily through exposure to infectious blood or body fluids that contain blood¹. More than half of individuals who become infected with HCV will develop chronic infection; however, most people with chronic infection are asymptomatic¹. Studies estimate that over 69,000 Michiganders are currently living with hepatitis C and that almost half of this population are unaware of their infection^{2,3}. There is no vaccine for HCV; however, HCV can be cured in as little as eight to 12 weeks with all-oral, direct-acting antiviral (DAAs) medications with over 95% efficacy⁴.



We Treat Hep C Initiative

Through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' We Treat Hep C Initiative, Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries living with hepatitis C can be cured at little to no cost regardless of the prescriber's specialty, patient's past or current use of alcohol or drugs, or liver damage.

	Prior Authorization	*Fibrosis Restrictions	Patient Abstinence from Alcohol & Drugs	Specialist Prescriber	Age (Years)
MAVYRET® (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir)	Not required	None	Not required	Not required	3+
Other non-preferred HCV DAAs	Standard Medicaid clinical prior <u>authorization form</u> .	None	Not required	Not required	Administration and dosage vary for each DAA. Please see full prescribing information.

*While liver fibrosis assessment is essential for all patients, submission of fibrosis score is no longer required for treatment coverage under Medicaid or Healthy Michigan plans.

For questions, to subscribe to the We Treat Hep C listserv, or to be added to the Hepatitis C Treatment Provider Directory e-mail MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov.

For resources related to harm reduction or to find a syringe service program, visit:

Michigan.gov/SSP

For more information and resources regarding the We Treat Hep C Initiative, visit:

Michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Hepatitis C basics. cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/about/index.html.

²Rosenberg, E.S., Rosenthal, E.M., Hall, E.W., Barker, L., Hofmeister, M.G. Sullivan, P.S., Dietz, P., Mermin, J., Ryerson, A.B. (2018). Prevalence of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in U.S. States and the District of Columbia, 2013 to 2016. JAMA Netw Open, 1(8). doi: 10.1001.

³Gnanapandithan, K., & Ghali, M.P. (2023). Self-awareness of hepatitis C infection in the United States: A cross-sectional study based on the National Health Nutrition and Examination Survey. PLoS ONE, 18(10). doi: 10.1371.

⁴Fierer, D.S. & Wyles, D.L. (2020). Re-treatment of Hepatitis C Infection After Multiple Failures of Direct-Acting Antiviral Therapy. Open Forum Infectious Disease, 7(4). doi: 10.1093

⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C. cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html.

HCV Testing Recommendations

Nearly half of people with HCV are unaware of their infection status, and approximately 75%–85% of people with HCV don't have symptoms⁵. Please consider making HCV testing and screening a priority in your practice.

CDC has issued the following recommendations on how to make decisions on whether to test or screen:



UNIVERSAL HCV SCREENING FOR:

- All adults 18 and older at least once in their lifetime.
- All pregnant people during each pregnancy.

ROUTINE PERIODIC HCV TESTING FOR:

- People who currently inject drugs and share needles, syringes or other drug preparation equipment.
- People with selected medical conditions, including people who receive maintenance hemodialysis.

ANYONE WHO REQUESTS AN HCV TEST

Clinicians should order HCV testing with an HCV antibody test with reflex to NAT for HCV RNA if the antibody test is positive/reactive. HCV reflex testing ensures completion of the two-step testing sequence and reduces patient barriers.

ONE TIME HCV TESTING FOR:

- Infants born to people with known hepatitis C.
- People who currently or have previously injected drugs and shared needles, syringes or other drug preparation equipment.
- People living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Health care, emergency medical and public safety personnel after needle sticks, sharps or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood.
- People with selected medical conditions, including people who have ever received maintenance hemodialysis and persons with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels.
- Prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants, including people who:
 - Received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987.
 - Received a transfusion of blood or blood components before July 1992.
 - Received an organ transplant before July 1992.
 - Were notified that they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV infection.

HCV Trainings and Resources for Health Care Providers

GUIDELINES AND ALGORITHMS:

CDC Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C: [cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/clinical-care/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/clinical-care/index.html).

AASLD + IDSA Guidance: [Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C. hcvguidelines.org](https://www.hcvguidelines.org).

AASLD + IDSA Algorithm: [Hepatitis C Treatment Algorithm for Treatment-Naïve Adults Without Cirrhosis](#).

AASLD + IDSA Algorithm: [Hepatitis C Treatment Algorithm for Treatment-Naïve Adults With Compensated Cirrhosis](#).

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

On-Demand trainings and CME webinars on MDHHS We Treat Hep C website [Michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC](https://www.michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC).

Hepatitis C Online - Free education from the University of Washington Infectious Diseases Education & Assessment program: hepatitisc.uw.edu.

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CLINICAL CONSULT SUPPORT FROM EXPERTS:

Henry Ford Health System – 313-575-0332 available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.– 5 p.m., or by submitting a request at [Henryford.com/hcp/academic/medicine/divisions/id/hep-c-consult](https://www.henryford.com/hcp/academic/medicine/divisions/id/hep-c-consult).

Wayne State University/Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center – Call 313-962-2000 to make an appointment for case-based office hours. For urgent questions, after hours and on weekends, call 313-408-3483. [matecmichigan.com](https://www.matecmichigan.com).

Overdose Prevention Engagement Network (OPEN) - Hep C provider consultations for substance use-related cases and education, both online learning and live webinars. [michigan-open.org](https://www.michigan-open.org).

Michigan State University and Michigan Center for Rural Health - Assists clinicians throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula manage HCV patients more effectively and confidently through Project ECHO. Free CME available. [mcrh.msu.edu](https://www.mcrh.msu.edu).