Hepatitis C in New Mexico

Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Inc. (Molina Healthcare) and the New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division are working together to increase Hepatitis C virus (HCV) awareness, education and testing for Centennial Care Members. New Mexico has the highest prevalence of HCV in the United States and it’s estimated that 35,000 New Mexicans are chronically infected. Early detection leading to earlier treatment can have a significant impact on a Member’s well-being. Molina Healthcare asks for provider support in this important effort to educate Molina Members about HCV, test Members according to the recommendations and refer those identified with HCV to appropriate care and treatment services. Together we can minimize the effect of HCV in the state of New Mexico!

**Persons for Whom HCV Testing is Recommended**

- Adults born from 1945 through 1965 should be tested once (without prior ascertainment of HCV risk factors)
- Those who have the following risk behaviors:
  - Injection-drug use (this includes those who have ever injected before, even if it was once, a few times or years ago); and
  - Intranasal illicit drug use.
- HCV- testing based on a recognized risk exposure:
  - Certain medical conditions, including persons who:
    - Were ever on long-term hemodialysis;
    - Have unexplained liver disease and/or chronic hepatitis including persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase levels (ALT); and/or
    - Have Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection.
  - Prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants, including persons who:
    - Were notified that they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV infection;
    - Received a transfusion of blood, blood components, or an organ transplant before July 1992; and/or
    - Received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987.
  - Healthcare, emergency medical, and public safety workers after needle sticks, sharps, or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood;
  - Persons who got a tattoo in an unregulated setting;
  - Children born to HCV-positive women;
  - Persons who were ever incarcerated; and/or
  - Solid organ donors (deceased and living).
HCV Testing

- Tip: Include a Hepatitis C testing alert/reminder in electronic health records for birth cohort screening.
- TriCore Reference Laboratories and Quest Diagnostics both offer all HCV related blood tests including NS5A resistance testing.
  - TriCore: [http://www.tricore.org/test_directory?keyword=hepatitis c](http://www.tricore.org/test_directory?keyword=hepatitis c)
- Quest offers Order on Hold and Care 360 to assist with streamlining lab ordering and much more (call 888-835-3409 or visit Care360.com).

Hepatitis C Treatment Eligibility (for Medicaid members)

Chronic HCV patients who have the following are eligible for treatment:

- Age ≥ 18 years old;
- Stage F2 fibrosis (F2 equivalent) or worse;
  - APRI ≥ 0.7, OR FIB-4 ≥ 1.45, OR Transient elastography (Fibroscan) score ≥ 7.1 kPa, OR Liver biopsy confirming a METAVIR score F2 or greater, OR Imaging study that shows cirrhosis, OR FibroSure/FibroTest score ≥ 0.49
- Decompensated liver disease;
- Hepatocellular carcinoma;
- Extra-hepatic manifestations of HCV infection (i.e. cryoglobulinemia); and/or
- Other high risk conditions (i.e. HIV co-infection, pre- and post-transplant, insulin resistant diabetes mellitus, porphyria cutanea tarda, lymphoma, and documented debilitating fatigue for more than 6 months).

Both primary care practitioners and specialists can prescribe and submit prior authorization requests for treatment:

1. Submit the standard Drug Prior Authorization Request with preferred medications.
2. Refer to the Uniform New Mexico HCV Checklist for Centennial Care for requirements and submit the completed checklist along with updated clinical notes and labs/studies (checklist is at [http://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/nm/medicaid/forms/Pages/fuf.aspx](http://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/nm/medicaid/forms/Pages/fuf.aspx)).
3. Please fax all of the above toll free to (866) 472-5478.
4. Please contact the Case Management Department toll free at (855) 315-5677 if Member requires care coordination or assistance with facilitating a referral for HCV treatment.
**Hepatitis C Resources**
For Centennial Care HCV treatment questions or questions about the checklist and guidelines, please contact Molina Healthcare of New Mexico Department of Pharmacy Management toll free at (800) 377-9594, ext. 186336 or (800) 580-2811, ext. 186336

AASLD/IDSA- HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C  
http://www.hcvguidelines.org/

CDC- Hepatitis C Information  
http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm

U.S Preventative Services Task Force- Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection  

Project ECHO- Hepatitis C Community in New Mexico  
http://echo.unm.edu/nm-teleecho-clinics/hepatitis-c-community-clinic/

University of New Mexico Hepatitis C Clinic  
http://hospitals.unm.edu/gastro/clinics/hepc.html