

Hepatitis C in New Mexico

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Molina Healthcare of New Mexico (Molina) 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 wellbeing. **Molina 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)
- HCV testing is recommended for those who have the following **risk behaviors**:
 - Injection-drug use (current or ever, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago)
 - Intranasal illicit drug use
- HCV- testing based on a **recognized risk exposure** is recommended for the following:
 - Certain medical conditions, including persons:
 - who were ever on long-term hemodialysis
 - who have unexplained liver disease and/or chronic hepatitis including persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase levels (ALT)
 - who have 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
 - who 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
 - Solid organ donors (deceased and living)

Hepatitis C Treatment Update

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

- Stage 2 fibrosis or worse
- Decompensated liver disease
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Extra-hepatic manifestations of HCV infection
- High risk conditions (i.e. HIV co-infection, pre- and post-transplant, insulin resistant diabetes mellitus, and documented debilitating fatigue for more than 6 months)

Both primary care providers and specialists can prescribe and submit prior authorization requests for treatment to the Department of Pharmacy Management using the standard prior authorization form. Please fax the form toll free to (866) 472-5478

Hepatitis C Resources

For Centennial Care HCV treatment questions, 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

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/hepatitis-c-screening>

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>