

Hepatitis C in New Mexico

Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Inc. (Molina Healthcare) and the New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division continue to work together to increase Hepatitis C virus (HCV) awareness, education and testing for Centennial Care Members.

In 2016 Molina Healthcare approved three times as many members for Hepatitis C treatment compared to 2015. The good news is that as of January 1, 2017, even more New Mexicans are eligible for treatment!

***NEW* Hepatitis C Treatment Eligibility (for Medicaid members)**

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

- Age \geq 18 years old
- Stage F1 fibrosis (F1 equivalent) or worse
 - APRI \geq 0.3, **OR** FIB-4 \geq 1.29, **OR** Transient elastography (Fibroscan) score \geq 5.0 kPa, **OR** Liver biopsy confirming a METAVIR score F1 or greater, **OR** FibroSure/FibroTest score \geq 0.27, **OR** Fibrometer \geq predominance [F1], **OR** Imaging study that shows cirrhosis.
- Decompensated liver disease
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Extra-hepatic manifestations of HCV infection (i.e., cryoglobulinemia, renal disease)
- Other high-risk conditions (i.e., HIV co-infection, pre- and post-transplant, insulin resistant diabetes mellitus, porphyria cutanea tarda, lymphoma, documented persistent debilitating fatigue related to HCV, men who have sex with men, active injection drug user, on long-term hemodialysis, a woman of childbearing age who wishes to get pregnant or HCV-infected healthcare worker who performs exposure-prone procedures)

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.

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); and/or
 - 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;
 - who received a transfusion of blood, blood components or an organ transplant before July 1992; and/or
 - 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
 - Recipients of solid organ donations (deceased and living)

Hepatitis C 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 Reference Laboratory Directory](#)
 - [Quest Diagnostics](#)
- 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 Care Coordination

If a Member requires care coordination or assistance with facilitating a referral for HCV treatment, please contact the Care Coordination Department at (855) 315-5677.

Hepatitis C Provider Training

Clinician training is available for providers who would like to become an active partner with Project ECHO in the treatment of HCV for their patients. Please email program coordinator Scott Lockwood-Smith at scsmith@salud.unm.edu or Dr. Thornton at kthornton@salud.unm.edu.

Hepatitis C Resources

For Centennial Care HCV treatment questions, checklist and guidelines, please contact the 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
[AASLD HCV Guidelines](#)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)- Hepatitis C Information
[CDC-Hepatitis Information](#)

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force- Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection
[US Preventive Task Force Hepatitis C Infection](#)

Project ECHO- Hepatitis C Community in New Mexico
[UNM School of Medicine Project ECHO - Hepatitis C Community](#)

University of New Mexico Hepatitis C Clinic
[UNM Center for Digestive Diseases](#)

Thank you for the quality care that you provide to our valued Members.

Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Inc.