



# First Friday Forum

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# What is Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)?

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- ▶ Most common blood born disease in the U.S.
- ▶ Between 75-85% of people infected will develop chronic HCV.
- ▶ Chronic HCV is a lifelong virus that can cause severe scarring (cirrhosis) of the liver, liver cancer, the need for a liver transplant, and even death.
- ▶ The death toll from HCV continues to rise, tied to the opioid epidemic and the rise in injecting drugs.

# HCV in Washington State

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- ▶ Estimated 65,000 people living with HCV in Washington State at the start of 2018.
- ▶ ~30,000 are covered by state-purchased healthcare: AH, UMP, DOC, L&I, DSHS.
- ▶ 118 new reports of acute infection in 2018, the highest in over twenty years.
- ▶ 543 deaths attributed to chronic HCV in 2017.
- ▶ Most affected populations are baby boomers and intravenous drug users.

# Barriers to Treating HCV

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- ▶ First direct-acting antivirals (DAA) came to market in 2011.
- ▶ Prices range from \$417 to \$1,125 per day, or \$35K-\$95K per 12 week treatment.
- ▶ Only chronic HCV patients can be treated.
- ▶ Stigma among patients and providers. IV drug users won't be treated.
- ▶ The lack of urgency among patients and providers to treat.
- ▶ Access to HCV specialists.

# Governor Inslee's September 2018 Directive

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- ▶ HCA and DOH to jointly develop strategies to eliminate HCV from Washington State by 2030
- ▶ HCA to develop a procurement strategy for all state covered lives
- ▶ DOH to develop a comprehensive public health outreach strategy

# HCA's Purchasing Strategy

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- ▶ RFP issued January 2019
- ▶ Requested discounted drug costs for all state covered lives as well as outreach support services
- ▶ Two contracts effective 7-1-19
  - ▶ Medicaid - also includes outreach services
  - ▶ Non-Medicaid – same net cost for all non-Medicaid programs: UMP, DOC, DSHS, L&I

# Apple Health (Medicaid) Policy Changes

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- ▶ Mavyret<sup>®</sup> is preferred on the Apple Health Preferred Drug List
- ▶ No Prior Authorization for Mavyret<sup>®</sup>
- ▶ No sobriety or fibrosis restrictions
- ▶ No wait to assure chronic
- ▶ Any licensed prescriber can screen and treat

# Mavyret<sup>®</sup> FDA Changes

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- ▶ September 2019 FDA approved Mavyret<sup>®</sup> 8 week treatment for treatment-naïve, compensated cirrhotic, and chronic HCV patients across all genotypes.



# AbbVie Outreach Support

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- ▶ Find untreated patients
  - ▶ Data solutions that can help pinpoint the locations where HCV infections are most common
- ▶ Physician education and support
  - ▶ Partnering with, educating, supporting prescribers: printed materials & webinars
- ▶ Screening and connection to care
  - ▶ Event scheduling and deployment of Elimination Awareness Bus, to be staffed by Hepatitis Education Project
  - ▶ Nurse Ambassador Program <https://www.mavyret.com/patient-support>
  - ▶ Printed patient education materials

# Public Health Strategy

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- ▶ DOH formed Hep C Free Washington Coordinating Committee
- ▶ Plan comprised of 15 goals and 90 recommendations. Work groups:
  - ▶ Data & strategic information
  - ▶ Community-based responses & interventions
  - ▶ Clinical strategies

# What we need from you

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- ▶ Anyone licensed to prescribe antiviral treatments is allowed to screen and treat Medicaid members to support this effort.
- ▶ If a patient knows they have Hep C, but has not gotten treatment:
  - ▶ There is a cure.
  - ▶ Encourage them to get treated.
  - ▶ They do not have to be experiencing symptoms or be chronic to get treated.
  - ▶ They do not have to stop using IV drugs to be treated.
  - ▶ Uphold the dignity of each person by breaking down the stigma of the affected communities.

# Questions?

Email: [eliminatehcv@hca.wa.gov](mailto:eliminatehcv@hca.wa.gov)

HCA website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/clinical-collaboration-and-initiatives/eliminating-hepatitis-c>

DOH website:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IlnessandDisease/Hepatitis/HepatitisC/EliminatingHepatitisC>