

Hepatitis C Cure For All Pennsylvanians



HEPATITIS C IS A DEADLY BUT CURABLE DISEASE

- Nearly 4 million people in the United States, including more than 125,000 Pennsylvanians, have acute or chronic hepatitis C.
- Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection in the United States, yet most people who have an infection don't know it because hepatitis C often has no symptoms. If left untreated, the disease can result in liver damage, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, and death.
- Currently, more people in the United States die from hepatitis C than from HIV/AIDS.

EVERY PENNSYLVANIAN LIVING WITH HEPATITIS C DESERVES ACCESS TO A CURE

- Hepatitis C is curable. While effective medication has few side effects and can eliminate the disease in 12 weeks or less, the treatment is expensive. The high cost and restrictions placed on these curative therapies by insurance companies have prevented many hepatitis C patients from having access to a cure.
- Patients with Medicaid coverage have been disproportionately affected by the high cost of the new medications. Access restrictions put in place by Medicaid have made it extremely difficult for clinicians to obtain medication for their patients.

RESTRICTIONS TO LIFE-SAVING MEDICATIONS NEED TO BE ELIMINATED

- We can and must find viable solutions to address the limited public financial resources available to pay for curative hepatitis C treatment.
- It is imperative that all patients, regardless of the stage of their liver disease have access to curative therapies. Only universal access to a cure will reduce the incidence of end stage liver disease, liver cancer, and need for liver transplant. Increased access to a cure can also lead to decreased rates of transmission and, ultimately, the eradication of hepatitis C.
- Improving and expanding access to curative therapies will save the lives of Pennsylvanians and will reduce government costs of caring for people with end stage liver disease.

A BROAD BASED, STATE-WIDE COALITION HAS FORMED TO BATTLE HEPATITIS C

- We are gathering a broad coalition of health care providers, patients, policy-makers, and other interested parties to educate, share and learn, with the goal of expanding access to treatment for hepatitis C patients.
- Our goal is to find solutions for access to affordable hepatitis C testing, treatment, and prevention, and to save the lives of all hepatitis C patients living in Pennsylvania.
- We must develop a strategy to make curative treatment available to everyone living with hepatitis C. Working collectively, we can eradicate a disease that affects more than 125,000 Pennsylvanians.

**WITH UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS,
WE CAN ERADICATE HEPATITIS C IN PENNSYLVANIA.**

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