

Adrienne Simmons

From: National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) <info@nvhr.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Adrienne Simmons
Subject: NVHR Newsletter: November Viral Hepatitis News and Recap



Over the past week, NVHR joined the viral hepatitis community at The AASLD Liver Meeting to connect with liver health advocates, explore the latest research and trends in hepatitis, hear from expert speakers, and network in virtual sessions. Additionally, the Hep ElimINATION project team, a partnership between the O'Neill Institute, NVHR and the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School (CHLPI), presented on the methods utilized to assess and grade the policy landscape and programmatic strategies impacting viral hepatitis elimination in the 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

NVHR also hosted a virtual happy hour with fellow viral hepatitis patient advocates, where we discussed insights from The Liver Meeting and the future of viral hepatitis advocacy. Thank you to those who joined us at the meeting and at happy hour!

TAKE ACTION



SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO HHS ON THE VIRAL HEPATITIS NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Sign up for HHS' webinar to provide verbal comments, or submit your comments via email to HepatitisPlanComments@hhs.gov

Help Shape the HHS Federal Implementation Plan for the Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the U.S.

The HHS Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy invites stakeholders to provide written or verbal public comment on a draft of the [Viral Hepatitis Federal Implementation Plan 2021-2025](#). This plan sets forth federal partners' commitments to implementing the goals of [HHS' strategic plan](#).

Take Action TODAY!

Sign up for HHS Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy's webinar on Thursday, November 18 at 1PM ET to review the development of the plan and provide verbal public comment. Stakeholders can also provide public comment by [emailing HHS](#).

Click Here to
Register for the
Webinar

POLICY UPDATES

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Voted Unanimously to Recommend Hepatitis B Vaccination for Adults Ages 19–59. The Committee's vote is a win for the viral hepatitis community as CDC guidelines will now recommend all adults between the ages of 19–59 be immunized against hepatitis B. While NVHR is disappointed the Committee only recommended vaccination for adults 60 and older with risk factors for HBV infection, we encourage healthcare providers to discuss vaccination with their patients in this population regardless of risk. Read our full [statement](#).

CDC Reveals Disturbing Declines in Hepatitis C Treatment Initiation through 2020. CDC's first [estimates](#) of hepatitis C treatment showed the number of people living with hepatitis C who initiated treatment with direct-acting antiviral agents (DAAs) declined from 2015–2020. The on-average 120,000 people treated each year falls far short of the estimated 260,000 needed to achieve hepatitis C elimination in the U.S. by 2030. Read NVHR's full [statement](#) in response to the data.

The World Hepatitis Alliance's Stigma Report Highlights the Need to Address Hepatitis B Stigma and Discrimination. Stigma and discrimination negatively impact people living with viral hepatitis in their personal lives, careers, families and communities, and can negatively impacting testing strategies. [The Stigma Report](#) brings together the latest research on stigma and discrimination and the stories of those who are impacted by hepatitis B. The report reveals that a staggering 93% of people living with hepatitis B face stigma, and highlights the urgent need to address stigma and discrimination.

New York Publishes its Hepatitis C Elimination Plan. Gov. Kathy Hochul's administration released the state's [hepatitis C elimination plan](#), which aims to increase screenings, diagnoses, and treatments for people living with hepatitis C through expansion of Syringe Exchange Programs, HCV prevention strategies, Medicaid waiver programs, universal HCV screening for all pregnant women, and additional recommendations.

President Biden Nominates Dr. Robert Califf for FDA Commissioner. Dr. Califf is an academic and clinical trial researcher who served as Commissioner during the Obama administration.

Request a Hepatitis B Awareness Toolkit from Asian Health Foundation. Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) comprise about 50% of chronic hepatitis B cases, but only make up 6% of the total U.S. population, due in part to a low level of understanding of hepatitis B risks among the AAPI population and healthcare provider community. Request AHF's "[I'll B There](#)" toolkit to help raise awareness around hepatitis B by visiting their website, or emailing jjablonski@contactthmc.com.

FROM THE COMMUNITY



HHS Webinar on Viral Hepatitis Federal Implementation Plan 2021-2015

HHS invites stakeholders to participate in a webinar regarding the implementation of the Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and to provide public comment.

Thursday, November 18, 1PM ET

[Register Here](#)



NVHR's Monthly Grassroots Advocacy Call
The topic of this month's advocacy call is Pharmacists' Roles in Viral Hepatitis Elimination. Hear from pharmacists across the country who are providing viral hepatitis care in unique settings. We'll discuss opportunities and barriers to increasing pharmacist involvement in viral hepatitis care.

Thursday, November 18, 3PM ET

[Register Here](#)



Addressing Hepatitis B Stigma and Discrimination Can't Wait

World Hepatitis Alliance is hosting a webinar to convene hepatitis B experts and people living with hepatitis B who impacted by stigma and discrimination, and discuss the issues and actions needed to tackle these urgent issues. The event will be taking place in London, England.

Tuesday, December 14, 4AM ET

[Register Here](#)

LATEST NEWS

MedPage Today: [Fewer Hepatitis C Patients Seeking Treatment of Late](#)

Washington Post: [HHS pledges more effort, resources toward harm reduction for drug users](#)

Hep Magazine: [Primary Care With Expert Consultation Successful in Treating Hepatitis C](#)

MedScape: [Alcoholic Hepatitis Admissions of Young Adults Spike in Pandemic](#)



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