

## Adrienne Simmons

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**From:** National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) <info@nvhr.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** Adrienne Simmons  
**Subject:** NVHR Newsletter: October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month



October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month – hepatitis B and C are two of the leading causes of liver cancer, and can cause cirrhosis or liver scarring, the main risk factor for liver cancer. This month, we encourage you to spread the word about the importance of vaccination against hepatitis A and B, as well as hepatitis C screening, to reduce risk for liver disease. Visit [Global Liver Institute's website](#) to learn more about how you can get involved in Liver Cancer Awareness Month efforts.

**LIVER CANCER  
AWARENESS MONTH**



**#OCTOBERIS4LIVERS**

October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month - spread the word on the importance of vaccination and screening for viral hepatitis to reduce risk for liver disease.

**TAKE ACTION**

*Did you know?*

Only **25%** of adults are fully **vaccinated against** hepatitis B, a leading cause of **liver cancer**.

**Take Action:**

*Tell the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to vote for all adults to get the hepatitis B vaccine.*

**Take Action TODAY!**

Urge the Advisory  
Committee to

## Urge CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to Recommend Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination

The CDC's ACIP is currently reviewing evidence to determine if they should recommend universal adult hepatitis B vaccination. Current guidelines are based on complicated risk factors that have proven to be ineffective at capturing all who are at-risk.

recommend universal vaccination against hepatitis B for all adults by signing Hep B United's [organizational sign-on letter](#), and filling out their petition for individual community members by clicking the box below.

[Click Here to Sign the Petition](#)

## POLICY UPDATES

**New York Governor Kathy Hochul Signs Legislation Addressing the Opioid Crisis.** Gov. Hochul signed into law a package of bills aimed at addressing the opioid crisis, including legislation that decriminalizes the public possession and sale of hypodermic needles and syringes. NVHR's Director of Policy and New York native Daniel Raymond issued a statement thanking Gov. Hochul for signing the legislation, and recognizing the work of the advocacy community to push the policy into law. Read his full statement [here](#).

**Texas' *State of Hep C* Grade Increased to A.** Texas Medicaid has removed their minimum fibrosis, sobriety, and prescriber requirements for hepatitis C treatment. As a result, Texas' score on its [Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access](#) scorecard has improved to A.

Prior to the change, Texas was one of only three states that required advanced liver scarring, and one of 13 states that required patients seeking treatment to abstain from drugs and alcohol to receive treatment.

**NVHR's Monthly Grassroots Advocacy Call is Thursday, October 21 at 3pm.** [Join a discussion](#) of the promises and pitfalls of innovative payment models for hepatitis C treatment with Sonia L. Canzater of Georgetown University's O'Neill Institute, author of a [recent white paper](#) analyzing these novel procurement strategies.

**Governor Newsom Signs Bill AB789 to Offer Free Hepatitis B and C Screenings Into Law.** On October 4, Gov. Newsom signed into law a bill that makes California the first state in the country to provide adults voluntary screenings for hepatitis B and C. The new law will help save lives and close disparities in viral hepatitis diagnosis and treatment.

## AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

October is also American Pharmacists Month! Pharmacists are critical to viral hepatitis testing, prevention and treatment, and are highly accessible contributors to realizing viral hepatitis elimination in the United States. Highlighted below are a few pharmacists that NVHR has worked with, who are leading viral hepatitis elimination efforts in their communities. Take the time this month to thank your pharmacist!

### **Kathleen Pierce, PharmD & Elyse Tung, PharmD, BCACP**

Seattle-based Kelley-Ross Pharmacy is working with the Hepatitis Education Project and the University of Washington to evaluate a new delivery of care model for people who use drugs who are living with HCV. Learn more about their [HepPSI study here](#).

### **Monica Graybeal, PharmD**

NVHR provider advocate and pharmacist Dr. Monica Graybeal has worked to diagnose, treat, and care for people living with HCV at the

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in Washington State. [Learn more about her work.](#)

**Trey Fuller, PharmD & Jamie Smith, PharmD**

Virginia Department of Corrections pharmacists Trey Fuller and Jamie Smith [support the Referral on Release Program](#) in Virginia, in partnership with the University of Virginia, which helps connect people who were diagnosed with HCV while incarcerated, but not treated, to treatment on release.

**Angela Trout, PharmD, BCACP, CPP & Kelsey Kroon, PharmD**

Pharmacists Angela Trout and Kelsey Kroon, who established an HCV treatment program for Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital in Montana, say meeting people where they are comfortable receiving treatment helps to build trust. [Learn more about their work.](#)

**Adrienne Simmons, PharmD, MS, BCPS, AAHIVP**

NVHR's own Director of Programs Adrienne Simmons joined Pharmacy Quality Solutions' *Quality Corner Show* podcast to discuss social determinants of health with a specific use case on hepatitis C. Listen to the [full podcast episode here.](#)



**NVHR**

NVHR thanks all pharmacists across the country who are working to eliminate viral hepatitis in their communities through testing, prevention and treatment efforts.

**AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH**

## FROM THE COMMUNITY



### AIDS United Syringe Access Funding Opportunity

AIDS United is accepting Letters of Inquiry for its Syringe Access Funds grant program through November 5 at 5PM ET. The Syringe Access Fund is a collaborative grant-making initiative that seeks to reduce the health, psychosocial and socioeconomic disparities experienced by people who use drugs. Please email [SAF@aidsunited.org](mailto:SAF@aidsunited.org) to learn more.

**Letter of Inquiry Due Friday, November 5 at 5PM ET**



### AASLD's The Liver Meeting

AASLD's The Liver Meeting will be taking place virtually from November 12-15, 2021. Hep Elimination will be presenting a networking session in collaboration with the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination and the Hepatitis Elimination Task Force during the meeting. The patient/advocate registration rate for the Meeting is \$50.

**Friday, November 12 - Monday, November 15**

[Register Here](#)

Join NVHR for a Happy Hour at The Liver Meeting to connect with fellow viral hepatitis patient advocates, share insights from the AASLD Liver Meeting, and chat about the future of viral hepatitis advocacy.

[Register for Happy Hour Here](#)



**Summit: Eliminating Hepatitis C Among People Who Use Drugs in Appalachia**

The Community Liver Alliance is hosting a summit to explore the syndemic of hepatitis C infection and substance use among people who inject drugs in Appalachia, and identify strategies and best practices to successfully reduce burden and eliminate viral hepatitis. NVHR Director of Policy Daniel Raymond is a Summit Co-Chair.

**Wednesday, November 17, 12–4PM ET**

[Register Here](#)

## LATEST NEWS

HepVu: [What's New in Viral Hepatitis October 2021](#)

World Health Organization: [WHO Announces the Update of HCV Guidelines on Testing and Treatment](#)

Hep Magazine: [\\$1.5B to Combat Opioid and Overdose Epidemics in New York State](#)

Associated Press: [Massachusetts Considers Allowing Supervised Drug-Use Sites](#)



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