

July 26, 2024

Dear [Healthcare Professional Association],

On behalf of the [National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable](#) (NVHR), we invite you and your members to join us in a collective effort to break down barriers to viral hepatitis care. NVHR brings together patients, providers, public health leaders, and community partners to advance viral hepatitis elimination in the United States.

July 28th marks World Hepatitis Day, highlighting the significant public health concern of viral hepatitis affecting millions of people across the country. Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections disproportionately impact immigrants, low-income individuals, people who use drugs, and those with a history of homelessness or incarceration. Despite the availability of a vaccine and treatment for hepatitis B and a cure for hepatitis C, the majority of those affected remain undiagnosed and untreated.

To achieve the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' goal](#) of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, we must equip healthcare professionals to provide high-quality, evidence-based and accessible care, informed by the experiences and needs of those directly impacted by viral hepatitis. To achieve this, we are focusing on the following areas of change:

- **Access to Care:** NVHR has a long-standing commitment to removing barriers to care, including burdensome and clinically inappropriate prior authorization requirements, inadequate reimbursement, and restrictive policies and regulations that limit opportunities for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. NVHR seeks your partnership in addressing these challenges while maximizing the potential of innovations such as telehealth, co-located care models, and improved diagnostics, including FDA's recent [market authorization](#) of the first-ever HCV RNA point-of-care test.
- **Education:** NVHR strongly recommends prioritizing the inclusion of viral hepatitis in educational and training opportunities such as conferences, coursework, and webinars for all providers, students, and trainees. We encourage you to actively promote guideline recommendations and training programs such as University of Washington's [Hepatitis B Online](#) and [Hepatitis C Online](#) to your members. We urge you to incorporate the lived experience of people with viral hepatitis to enhance cultural competency and combat stigma. NVHR stands ready to support your efforts by identifying existing training programs and connecting you with subject matter experts who can enrich your educational initiatives.
- **Advocacy:** NVHR collaborates on a range of advocacy initiatives, including championing the White House proposal for a [National HCV Elimination Program](#). We welcome opportunities to share our policy goals and collaborate on overlapping priorities.

Your partnership and engagement are essential in making the promise of viral hepatitis elimination a reality. We look forward to hearing about your current initiatives and exploring opportunities for future collaboration. Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that everyone can access care with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Simmons, PharmD, MS
Director of Programs

Daniel Raymond
Director of Policy

