

## Provider Notice

**To:** PerformCare Providers  
**From:** PerformCare  
**Date:** October 7, 2024  
**Subject:** AD 24 112 Screening and Treatment for Hepatitis C

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PerformCare is requesting our provider network to assist us with efforts to identify Members with Hepatitis C. The Hepatitis C Virus causes a transmissible bloodborne illness. Over 50% of acute infections progress to chronic infections, which then can lead to significant long-term health complications, including a need for a liver transplant, liver cancer<sup>1</sup> or even death.

**Hepatitis C is now highly treatable, but early testing and diagnosis are crucial to prevent chronic health issues.** Current, treatment involves 8-12 weeks of oral antiviral therapy, with a cure rate of approximately 90%.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), acute Hepatitis C cases have increased in recent years.<sup>2</sup> Up to 85% of those with Hepatitis C show no symptoms, and nearly half are unaware they are infected.<sup>3</sup> Injection drug use is the most reported risk factor for Hepatitis C, with 66% of the individuals who provided risk factor information reported using injectable drugs.<sup>2</sup>

Providers of behavioral health services, particularly those offering substance use services, serve a high-risk population for Hepatitis C, and are uniquely positioned to assist our Members in getting screened and treated. The American Society of Addiction Medicine states that active alcohol or other drug use should not exclude individuals from being treated for Hepatitis C.<sup>4</sup> Screening and treatment can be offered on-site or via referral to local providers. The PA Department of Health offers information on where Members can get tested or treated. Visit the following link for more details:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/hepatitis/Pages/Hepatitis-C.aspx#should>

**We are asking for your help by getting our Members screened and treated for Hepatitis C.**

For more information about Hepatitis screening and treatment, please visit the following resources from the Centers for Disease Control, the PA Department of Health, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

1. [PA Dept of Health-Hepatitis C https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/health/diseases-conditions/infectious-disease/hepatitis/hepatitis-c.html](https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/health/diseases-conditions/infectious-disease/hepatitis/hepatitis-c.html)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report - United States, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2020surveillance/index.htm>. Published September 2022.
3. [CDC Hepatitis C- Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/labtesting.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/labtesting.htm)
4. [ASAM Public Policy Statement on the Hepatitis C Virus, Substance Use, and Addiction https://downloads.asam.org/sitofinity-production-blobs/docs/default-source/advocacy/2022-pps-on-hepatitis-c-sud-addiction---final.pdf?sfvrsn=2eac3088\\_5](https://downloads.asam.org/sitofinity-production-blobs/docs/default-source/advocacy/2022-pps-on-hepatitis-c-sud-addiction---final.pdf?sfvrsn=2eac3088_5)

cc: Scott Suhring, Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative  
Missy Wileman, Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance  
Account Executives