



Affordable Care Act and Viral Hepatitis Preventive Services
Successes, Challenges, Opportunities
May 21, 2014

Ryan Clary
Executive Director
rclary@nvhr.org

Why is the ACA Important?

- Expands access to care through Medicaid expansion, private insurance, financial assistance
- Strengthens community health centers
- Ends discrimination against pre-existing conditions
- Expands coverage of preventive services with no co-pays
- Public Health and Prevention Fund
- Prioritizes reduction of health disparities

ACA Implementation: Viral Hepatitis Preventive Services

- Expanded coverage of hepatitis B vaccination
- Updated USPSTF hepatitis B screening recommendations
- Expanded coverage of hepatitis B screening
- Updated USPSTF hepatitis C screening recommendations
- Expanded coverage of hepatitis C screening
- \$10 million increase for viral hepatitis services through Prevention and Public Health Fund/now incorporated into yearly funding

ACA Implementation: Hepatitis B Immunization

- Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices:
 - Universal vaccination of infants
 - Vaccination of children/adolescents not previously vaccinated
 - Pregnant women identified as being at risk for hepatitis B infection during pregnancy
 - Unvaccinated adults at risk for hepatitis B infection
 - Adults requesting protection from hepatitis B infection
- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs
- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs

ACA Implementation: Hepatitis B Screening

- Pregnant women (USPSTF “A” grade, 2009)
- At risk populations (USPSTF “B” grade, 2014)
- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs
- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs
- Pending: Medicare coverage

ACA Implementation: Hepatitis C Screening

- One-time testing for all born 1945 – 1965 (USPSTF “B” grade, 2013)
- Persons at high risk (USPSTF “B” grade, 2013)
- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs
- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs
- Covered with no co-pay by Medicare (must be ordered by primary care provider)

ACA Implementation: Prevention and Public Health Fund

- Provides expanded and sustained national investments in prevention and public health, to improve health outcomes, and to enhance health care quality
- Secured \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2012/2013 for viral hepatitis
- Funding is now integrated into “base funding”
- Has significantly increased hepatitis B and C testing/linkage to care services

ACA Implementation: Advocacy Priorities

- Medicare coverage of hepatitis B screening
- Medicare coverage of hepatitis C screening outside primary care
- Medicaid coverage (traditional programs) of hepatitis B and C screening
- Preventive services for uninsured
- Adequate federal funding