



A coalition of organizations, providers, advocates, and consumers working to achieve the elimination of Hepatitis C in Massachusetts.

EndHepCMA Coalition Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday October 3, 2017, 1-4PM

Location: Mychal Judge Center for Recovery at Saint Anthony's Shrine, 100 Arch Street, Boston

Steering Committee: Richard Baker (Coordinator), Dr. Cami Graham, Dr. Tom Stopka, Larry Day (absent), Dr. Jo Solet, Ben Klein (absent), Phil Waters, Connie Peters (absent), Susan Gould Coviello, Rainer Felber, Carl Sciortino (absent), Liz Whynott (absent)

Coalition Updates

EOHHS Specialty Pharmacy: The Coalition submitted a letter to EOHHS acknowledging concern with Specialty Pharmacy requirements for HCV meds in some MassHealth MCO policies. This policy creates barriers for the homeless in accessing medication. *Letter available on our website.*

Division of Insurance--Sensitive Health Services: The Coalition advocated for Hepatitis C treatment to be included as a sensitive health service, and therefore masked on a policy's summary of payment. Recommendation has been accepted and is pending Commissioner approval.

World Hepatitis Day Call To Action: A legislative call to action took place on July 28. Coalition members and supporters contacted legislators to advocate for a legislative override of Governor Baker's proposed cuts to the HIV/HCV line item (4512-0013). *This is ongoing, please continue to contact legislators.*

Train the Trainer 9/21: In partnership with HCV Advocate, we hosted a general Hepatitis C train the trainer event at Baystate Health in Springfield, MA. 43 people were trained in HCV transmission, prevention, disease management, and treatment at this event.

Ongoing Efforts:

HCV Provider Database: We are developing a resource of providers throughout Massachusetts offering low-barrier, stigma-free Hepatitis C treatment to those actively using or in treatment. The list is growing but **we need your help!** Please connect appropriate providers in your community with rbaker@vpi.org for more details.

Hep C Treatment Access in the MA Prison System

Joel Thompson, Staff Attorney, Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts

A discussion on the status of Fowler v. Turco (DOC and Massachusetts Partnership for Correctional Healthcare, and the access to DAA therapies in the MA prison system.

- As of 3/10/15 MCPH treated 31 inmates since the inception of their contract; 2% of the known HCV+ population in MA prisons.
- Liver biopsy still a required HCV treatment staging test in most cases, despite availability of non-invasive and more accurate diagnostic tools.
- Treatment consideration only occurs after 12 months of incarceration, and if there are 12 months remaining in sentence.

➔ **For a copy of the presentation slides, please follow this link <https://www.vpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EndHepCMA-Meeting-2017.10.3-3.pptx>**



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Committee Sessions

Awareness, Engagement, and Empowerment:

Committee Chairs: Jo Solet, Larry Day

- Working to build an awareness campaign with a target population of those actively using or in treatment for substance use disorder.
- Will focus on simple imagery and messaging reflecting risk, ease of treatment, and insurance coverage.

Next meeting will occur November 13 from 4-5PM at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope Street Boston—if you are interested in attending please contact joanne_solet@hms.harvard.edu or lday@vpi.org.

Screening:

Committee Chair: Cami Graham

- Advocate for DPH recommendation for one time screening of all adults, without regard to risk factors.

For more information on this committee please contact cgraham@bidmc.harvard.edu for more information.

Insurance Access:

Committee Chairs: Phil Waters

- This committee continues to monitor and catalogue issues with payer policies.

Any anecdotal evidence of insurance barriers should be communicated to pwaters@law.harvard.edu.

Corrections:

Committee Chairs: Lindsay Ventura

- Assess current policies in practices relating to HCV testing, education, and treatment in MA prison system.
- Compile contact lists for 30 drug courts in MA; goal of incorporating education with the aim of moving toward screening.

The next meeting of this committee will occur in early December 2017. Please contact lventura@liverfoundation.org for more details.

Harm Reduction and Prevention:

Committee Chairs: Connie Peters, Lexi Schneider

- Update on the status of Safe Injection Facility legislation in Massachusetts.
- Increase outreach to detox and treatment centers to provide HCV Education
- To Do: Needs assessment/outreach to communities without syringe service programs.

For details on this meeting and to join this committee, please contact cpeters@abhmass.org or aschneider@bhchp.org.

Proposed Recommendations for Adoption of National Academies Elimination Strategy

- Stipulate that all BSAS funded residential treatment programs incorporate testing, education, and treatment referral as a part of SUD care.
- Look into payer issue for PCP consult of HCV care→HCV consult not billable for PCPs
- Propose one-time, state-wide HCV screening of all adults irrespective of risk

For any questions or concerns please contact Richard Baker at rbaker@vpi.org or 617-927-0836 x188.