

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S. Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 2023

Governor

Dear Obstetricians and Gynecologists:

The <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u>, the <u>American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists</u> and the <u>U.S. Preventive Services Task Force</u> now recommend universal hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening of all pregnant persons during each pregnancy regardless of risk. The <u>New York State (NYS) HCV Elimination Plan</u> has identified universal HCV screening among pregnant people as a priority for moving NYS toward HCV elimination by 2030.

Effective May 3, 2024, all NYS providers attending a pregnant person will be required to screen for HCV at each pregnancy and document the result prominently in the medical record at or before the time of hospital admission for delivery. HCV screening may occur at any time during pregnancy.

An estimated 2.2 million persons nationally and 116,000 New Yorkers are infected with HCV. Forty percent of persons living with HCV do not know it. Nationally, rates of HCV have risen among persons of reproductive age. HCV among the U.S. obstetric population rose nearly 10-fold over the last 20 years. Injection drug use is the primary risk for HCV infection. Pregnant persons with HCV have a 6% chance of transmitting the virus to their baby. That chance doubles in babies born to individuals who are coinfected with HIV and HCV or who have high HCV viral loads. Infection with HCV can result in adverse fetal outcomes.

The development of newer and simpler direct-acting antivirals (DAA) allows for more than 95% of patients to be cured. While DAAs have not yet been FDA-approved for use during pregnancy, studies are ongoing to assess the safety and efficacy of DAA use in pregnant people. Treatment can be considered during pregnancy on an individual basis after a patient-physician discussion about the potential risks and benefits. Furthermore, Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals during the <a href="mailto:post-partum period">post-partum period</a> is increased from 60 days to 12 months, making HCV screening during pregnancy an important opportunity to identify future care needs for both the pregnant person and their baby.

NYS obstetrician—gynecologists play an important role in this effort. To support your practice in adopting the new HCV testing requirements, the NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute's Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) has launched a digital toolkit of resources and technical assistance (TA) opportunities. The toolkit can be found on the CEI web site. To request TA email <a href="mailto:hepatabc@health.ny.gov">hepatabc@health.ny.gov</a>.

Finally, new free education materials are also available at: <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatiti

- Protect your baby and yourself (Clinic posters)
- Protect yourself/Protect your baby (Patient postcard)

• Caring for your baby with hepatitis C, what you need to know. (Patient booklet)

We encourage you to join our efforts to ensure all pregnant New Yorkers are screened for HCV and those living with HCV are treated and cured. Together to eliminate HCV among pregnant people and all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kerwin Director, AIDS Institute

Enclosure: HCV Materials for Pregnant People – Order Form

### Educational Materials to Promote Hepatitis C Testing During Pregnancy

The New York State Department of Health offers limited quantities of free educational materials to New York State residents and organizations.

- No more than 10 different publications may be ordered.
- You may order up to 200 copies of each (up to 10 copies for posters) or provide details on why more are needed.
- For fastest delivery, please list items in numerical order by code number. These orders will be processed first.
- Bulk orders cannot be delivered to post office box numbers.

Complete this <u>form</u> including the requested publication title and publication number, language and quantity requested. Email the completed form to <u>OGS.SM.GDC@OGS.NY.GOV</u>

#### Materials for Consumers Available for Order

Title		Language	Code #
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster  This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023		English	<u>21420</u>
	Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.	Spanish	<u>21426</u>
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster  This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023		English	<u>21421</u>
	Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  **Married Conference of the processing of the particular o	Spanish	21427

Title	Language	Code #
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023	English	21422
Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  Hell and the state of	Spanish	<u>21428</u>
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster  This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023	English	<u>21423</u>
Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  Hydric Control and the control of	Spanish	<u>21429</u>
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023	English	<u>21424</u>
Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  Interest of the second o	Spanish	21430
Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023	English	<u>21425</u>
Protect your baby and yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  And the second se	Spanish	<u>21431</u>

Title	Language	Code #
Hepatitis C Testing During Pregnancy—Consumer Post card — This 2-sided post card aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people and follow-up testing for infants exposed to hepatitis C during pregnancy and birth. 9/2023	English	<u>16140</u>
Protect yourself.  Get tested for hepatitis C.  Hepatitis C is a liver disease that can affect you and your baby while you are progrant. All programt people was required to be tracted for hepatitis C. Results are confidential. There is treatment, You can be come.  There is treatment, You can be come.  There is treatment, You can be come.	Spanish	Coming soor
For more information go to www.health.ny.gov		

Caring for Your Baby with Hepatitis C – What you need to know – This 8-page booklet provides information for caregivers about the follow-up care needed for infants exposed to hepatitis C during pregnancy and birth. 10/2023

Caring for your baby with hepatitis C	English	21432 Coming soon	
	Spanish	Coming soon	

### Materials for Health Care Providers

Title		Language	Code #
Hepatitis C Testing – Health Care Provider Fact She health care providers reviews New York State requirements. 9/2023	· -	English	<u>1820</u>
Are You Screening for Hepatitis C at Each Pregnancy? - Provider Postcard This 2- sided postcard alerts healthcare providers about the New York State hepatitis C screening requirements during pregnancy. 9/2023	Are you screening for hepatitis C at each pregnancy?  Filedow Mry 2 2024, all MYS providers who care for pregnant persons will be required to screen for hepatitis C at each pregnancy, hapatit C are swing may occur at any time during pregnancy.	English	<u>16135</u>

Additional Digital Materials for Consumers

Additional Digital Materials for Const		Language	Code #
Hepatitis C Testing – Consumer Fact Sheet – Th	nis 2-page fact sheet for	English	<u>1821</u>
consumers provides information about he	epatitis C screening in New York	Spanish	<u>16152</u>
and the meaning of the results. 9/2023		Arabic	<u>16143</u>
HEPATITIS C	How is hepatitis C testing done?	Bengali	16144
New York State Hepatitis C Testing Requirements	The Engineer Control C	Chinese	<u>16145</u>
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Why should be about and important the product of the public of the publi	For more information, go to: www.health.ny.gov/hepatitiss	Korean	<u>16149</u>
When should comeone younger than 18 years of age be tested for hepatitis C?		Polish	16150
The state of which was a state of the state		Russian	16151
- NO IDAGE CENTURA AND AND CONTRACTOR OF THE SECOND CONTRACTOR OF THE S	HEPATITIS C TESTING: Consumer Pact Sheet • health.my.gov/hepatitisc	Urdu	16153
M2 Berto Bit appared direct MB	Total - New decidable of the other Health - Vol	Yiddish	16154
<b>Hepatitis C Facts</b> – This 1-page fact sheet provides basic information on hepatitis C, symptoms, transmission, and prevention. 6/2021	Hepatitis C Facts  What is treated.  What is tre	English	<u>1919</u>
	When it will be a server to the control of the cont	Spanish	<u>1920</u>
provides information about hepatitis C testing and diagnosis 6/2021	Hepatitis C Testing  Market (1997)   1	English	<u>1921</u>
	When the process of the program of the process of t	Spanish	<u>1922</u>
<b>Hepatitis C Treatment</b> This 1-page fact sheet provides basic information about hepatitis C care and treatment. 6/2021	Hepatitis C Treatment  The control of the control o	English	<u>1923</u>
	The common of th	Spanish	<u>1924</u>



## **PUBLICATION REQUEST FORM**

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PUBLICATION TITLE	PUBLICATION NUMBER	LANGUAGE	QUANTITY	
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MAILING INFORMATION				
NAME		DATE		
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)				
STREET ADDRESS				
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE				
PHONE NUMBER				