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New York State Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan,
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New York State Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan 2010-2015

Framework for Hepatitis C



PREVENTION

Goal: Prevent the acquisition and transmission of the hepatitis C virus.

Strategies

- 1.1 Promote the use of effective risk reduction interventions and strategies.
- 1.2 Expand capacity for hepatitis C screening statewide.
- 1.3 Improve access to hepatitis C screening and referral for diagnosis.
- 1.4 Increase the provision of timely referrals for substance use and mental health services.
- 1.5 Integrate hepatitis C counseling, screening and referral services into existing service delivery systems.
- 1.6 Maintain adequate infection control practices in health care and other settings.
- 1.7 Strengthen the foundation for substance use prevention.

EDUCATION

Goal: Build knowledge and awareness of hepatitis C disease, prevention, risk, treatment and medical management.

Strategies

- 2.1 Increase the knowledge of hepatitis C among the general public.
- 2.2 Improve and expand the knowledge of hepatitis C among health and human service providers.
- 2.3 Ensure access to culturally-sensitive and linguistically appropriate educational messages for persons, populations and communities at-risk.
- 2.4 Increase the awareness, understanding of and adherence to proper infection control practices.
- 2.5 Increase knowledge and promote a healthy lifestyle among persons newly diagnosed or living with hepatitis C.

SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH

Goal: Determine accurate incidence and prevalence rates for use in conjunction with available research findings to guide decision making.

Strategies

- 3.1 Secure adequate resources for state and local surveillance activities.
- 3.2 Improve capacity for complete and accurate disease reporting among laboratories and providers.
- 3.3 Use surveillance data to better inform recommendations for hepatitis C prevention programs.
- 3.4 Improve the epidemiologic investigation and response capacity to community and health care-associated outbreaks.
- 3.5 Develop and evaluate evidence-based interventions for hepatitis C prevention.
- 3.6 Conduct hepatitis C-related research to advance prevention, care and treatment.

MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT

Goal: Develop and maintain an infrastructure to provide the highest quality of hepatitis C care and treatment.

Strategies

- 4.1 Ensure provider access to current guidelines, regulations and recommendations for hepatitis C diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
- 4.2 Establish a referral network for hepatitis C diagnosis, care and treatment.
- 4.3 Assure timely access to hepatitis C diagnosis, care and treatment.
- 4.4 Integrate hepatitis C care, treatment and supportive services into primary care settings.
- 4.5 Ensure timely access to substance use and mental health services.
- 4.6 Address the complex needs associated with hepatitis C through coordination of care.
- 4.7 Establish programs to support hepatitis C care and treatment for uninsured and underinsured persons.

POLICY AND PLANNING

Goal: Foster an effective policy and planning environment at the local, state and national levels.

Strategies

- 5.1 Maintain an adequate statutory and regulatory environment for hepatitis C prevention.
- 5.2 Base policy development and decisions on credible information.
- 5.3 Ensure an inclusive approach to policy development and program planning.
- 5.4 Provide policy makers with information on the impact of challenges and unmet needs related to hepatitis C.
- 5.5 Assure the capacity of statewide systems to support hepatitis C-related goals.
- 5.6 Reduce hepatitis C-related stigma, discrimination, health disparities and cultural barriers.