



## Module 1 Discussion Guide

### Hepatitis C Virus: An Overview and Introduction to the Role of Local Health Departments

This guide poses questions and topics for consideration as you work your way through the webcasts in Module 1 and continue discussions about addressing HCV in your jurisdiction with your colleagues and partners.

#### Webcast 1.1 Hepatitis C: Where Are We Now?

- Think about the epidemiologic profile for HCV in your jurisdiction. Who is most affected? Does your health department have existing programs that address the needs of these populations? If so, how can they be leveraged to help address HCV? If not, how can you increase engagement with these communities to improve HCV prevention, screening, and linkage to care?
- As discussed in the webcast, current surveillance for HCV is limited. What HCV surveillance data do you have access to in your jurisdiction? To help develop a more complete picture, what additional data sources might you be able to access and utilize to better assess the burden of HCV in your jurisdiction?
- In the webcast, Dr. Ward discusses trends in increasing opioid use and its connection to HCV. Are you seeing similar trends in the jurisdiction your health department serves? Does your health department have any existing programs or strategies to address the growing incidence of opioid abuse?
- In the past two years, the quality of HCV treatment has rapidly improved, moving from Interferon and Ribavirin to all oral therapies that have high success rates. With these gains, new challenges have arisen, such as the high cost of the medication. How have these challenges been experienced in your jurisdiction? Have these challenges impacted your ability to address HCV?

#### Webcast 1.2 The National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

- Ms. Dan explains that the national goals outlined in the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan cannot be achieved through federal action alone. Active involvement and innovation from a broad mix of stakeholders from all levels and across multiple sectors is essential. What can your health department do to support achievement of these goals?
- What goals in the action plan are most aligned with the needs and priorities in your jurisdiction?
- Ms. Dan provides an overview of the Stakeholders' Workbook, which was created to facilitate strategic planning around the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan. Review the Workbook and consider how you might be able to use it to support or initiate activities in your jurisdiction. Who in your community would you invite to participate in a strategic planning process for HCV?
- How can your health department and community partners leverage new opportunities for HCV prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through the Affordable Care Act?



### Webcast 1.3 Viral Hepatitis C Testing Recommendations for Persons Born 1945-1965

- Is your health department currently involved in efforts to assess and assure hepatitis C services in your community? If so, did this webcast lead to any new insights into your work in this area? If not, did this webcast provide new insights into how you might be able to assure the provision of high-quality Hepatitis C services in your jurisdiction?
- Are there partners in the community, such as healthcare providers, that would benefit from increased information about hepatitis? How can you most effectively share information with these partners about CDC's *Know More Hepatitis Campaign* and baby boomer testing recommendations?
- What does the HCV test, care, and cure continuum look like in your jurisdiction? Where are there the biggest drop offs? What are some ways you can start addressing these gaps?

### Webcast 1.4 Leveraging Partnerships to Address Hepatitis C

- Does your health department work with the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator in your state? If not, consider how you might connect and collaborate with this individual to build and support efforts at the local level.
- Is there a local, regional, or statewide coalition in your area addressing HCV, hepatitis more broadly, or related issues (e.g. drug user health)? If not, what key stakeholders (internal and external) could you bring together to begin planning efforts to address HCV collectively? Who are the champions for this issue?
- Ms. Shirreffs discusses low cost strategies for getting HCV activities started. What low cost strategies might be effective in your jurisdiction? Are there other strategies not discussed that have proven successful, or that you think could be successful?
- Are there other organizations, agencies, etc. in your jurisdiction that might benefit from the information provided in these webcasts? Consider how you might share this information with them and initiate or advance conversations in your community about addressing HCV.