



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

August 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We want to work with you to eliminate hepatitis C (HCV) in Washington State. There are approximately 59,000 Washingtonians living with chronic HCV. Providers play a critical role in educating, screening and curing HCV because HCV patients can be asymptomatic, or other medical conditions may take priority.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) signed a contract with AbbVie, the maker of Mavyret®, in an effort to eliminate HCV in Washington State by 2030. Mavyret® treats genotypes 1-6, curing 97% of all patients with only 8 weeks of treatment. As part of this effort, AbbVie will coordinate with HCA to find patients who have been diagnosed but not treated; educate health care providers about screening and providing curative treatment; and address barriers to care such as stigma, the lack of urgency among patients and providers to treat, and access to HCV providers.

In order to support our provider community in this monumental effort, HCA has made important policy changes to Apple Health (Medicaid):

- The antiviral MAVYRET® will no longer require prior authorization (PA), and is the preferred medication in the Antivirals: Hepatitis C Agents drug class on the Apple Health Preferred Drug List. Other direct-acting antivirals will require PA and will be approved only when MAVYRET® is not clinically appropriate.
- Anyone licensed to prescribe antiviral treatments is allowed to screen and treat Apple Health clients to support this effort.

This is a huge opportunity to rid our state of the most common blood borne disease in the United States.

Effective immediately, we would like all providers licensed to treat HCV to screen and treat including:

- One-time testing of all adults (18 years and older).
- Testing of all pregnant women during each pregnancy.
- Regular screening of patients with risk factors, including people who inject drugs.
- Outreach to patients who have tested positive but have no history of treatment.

Historically, HCV has only been treated by specialists. Now anyone licensed to prescribe can screen and treat Apple Health clients, e.g. primary care doctors and pharmacists. Liver biopsy or imaging is not required.

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Please print and post the following materials in your office for reference:

- [HCA Provider Cheat Sheet](#)
- [AASLD-IDSA Simplified HCV Guidelines \(without Cirrhosis\)](#)
- [AASLD-IDSA Simplified HCV Guidelines \(with Compensated Cirrhosis\)](#)

HCA will be providing more information on HCV soon through a webinar. Please join us in creating a Hep C Free Washington.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director



July Zerzan, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer