

Hepatitis B and C: Whom to Screen

Hepatitis B and C can be cured. This guidance is designed to help the primary care provider identify patients with Hepatitis B and/or C.



Whom to Screen:

Recommendations are available from The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Institute of Medicine (IOM), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Preventive Services Taskforce (USPSTF). They are based on the following criteria: 1) the evidence indicates that screening improves health outcomes and that the benefits outweigh harms, and 2) in the absence of strong evidence, the screening represents prudent clinical and/or public health practice.

HBV:

- All pregnant women (IOM, CDC, NIH, USPSTF rating = A)
- Children born to hepatitis B infected mothers (NIH, IOM, CDC)
- Household contacts (NIH, CDC)
- Sexual contacts (NIH, CDC)
- Born in regions with high rates of HBV infection (NIH, IOM, CDC)
- Persons who have ever injected drugs illicitly (NIH, IOM, CDC)
- Persons with multiple sexual partners (IOM, CDC)
- Persons with a history of sexually transmitted infections (IOM, CDC)
- Men who have sex with men (NIH, CDC)
- Inmates of correctional facilities (IOM, CDC)
- Persons with HIV (IOM, CDC)
- Healthcare worker exposures at risk for percutaneous and permucosal exposures (CDC:MMWR 1997; 46((22))
- Patients undergoing renal dialysis (CDC)

HCV:

- Illicit injection drug use even once in the distant past - especially if drugs, equipment, paraphernalia or rinse water were shared (IOM, CDC, NIH)
- Persons with HIV (IOM, CDC)
- Received blood products, organ transplant, or a transfusion prior to 1992 (IOM, CDC, NIH prior to 1990)
- Children born to HCV-infected mothers (IOM, CDC, NIH)
- Health care, emergency medical and public safety workers after a needle stick injury or mucosal exposure to HCV-positive blood (CDC, NIH)
- Current sexual partners of HCV-infected persons (CDC, NIH). All agree that the risk is rare among monogamous couples, and that the risk increases with higher-risk sexual activity

Ask:

- Have you ever been exposed to another person's blood through broken skin or mucous membranes (*e.g. blood transfusion, needlestick injury, first responder, or combat related exposures*)?
- Have you ever shared syringes, needles, drugs, tattoo equipment, or body art ink or implements with another person?
- Have you ever been treated for a sexually transmitted disease or have you been the sex partner of someone that was treated for a sexually transmitted disease?