

Hepatitis C

Ten Things You Can Do to Increase Hepatitis Awareness at Your Facility

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www.hepatitis.va.gov

A list for VA hepatitis coordinators and clinicians

1. Promote and use educational materials on hepatitis B and C testing in primary care clinics, substance abuse disorder clinics, and emergency rooms. See www.hepatitis.va.gov or email publichealth@va.gov for ordering information.
2. Place a volunteer or staff person near the entrance of the cafeteria to hand out VA hepatitis informational materials.
3. Raise awareness about liver disease and consider giving a class on healthy living with hepatitis. See (www.hepatitis.va.gov/products/index.asp)
4. Let primary care providers know that hepatitis B and C testing is effective in saving lives. Early diagnosis means quicker linkage to care and better health outcomes.
5. Ask primary care clinics, substance abuse disorder clinics, and emergency rooms to set a goal to offer hepatitis B and C testing to every Veteran during VA Hepatitis Awareness Month.
6. Arrange for a local expert in hepatitis to give Grand Rounds during the month of May on the benefits of HCV testing.
7. Contact your local public relations person to see if you can add a short paragraph about VA Hepatitis Awareness Month to the local news bulletin and VA medical center home webpage during the month of May.
8. Find out who the Hepatitis Lead Clinician is at your facility and learn more about hepatitis B and C testing at your facility.
9. Get together with stakeholders at your facility (e.g. primary care chief, GI clinic, ID clinic, lab director, hepatitis lead clinician, nursing executive, etc.) and come up with a plan for increasing hepatitis B and C testing for Veterans at high risk.
10. Help arrange a hepatitis C testing campaign in primary care on May 19th. Please contact publichealth@va.gov for more information.

From the Office of Public Health
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