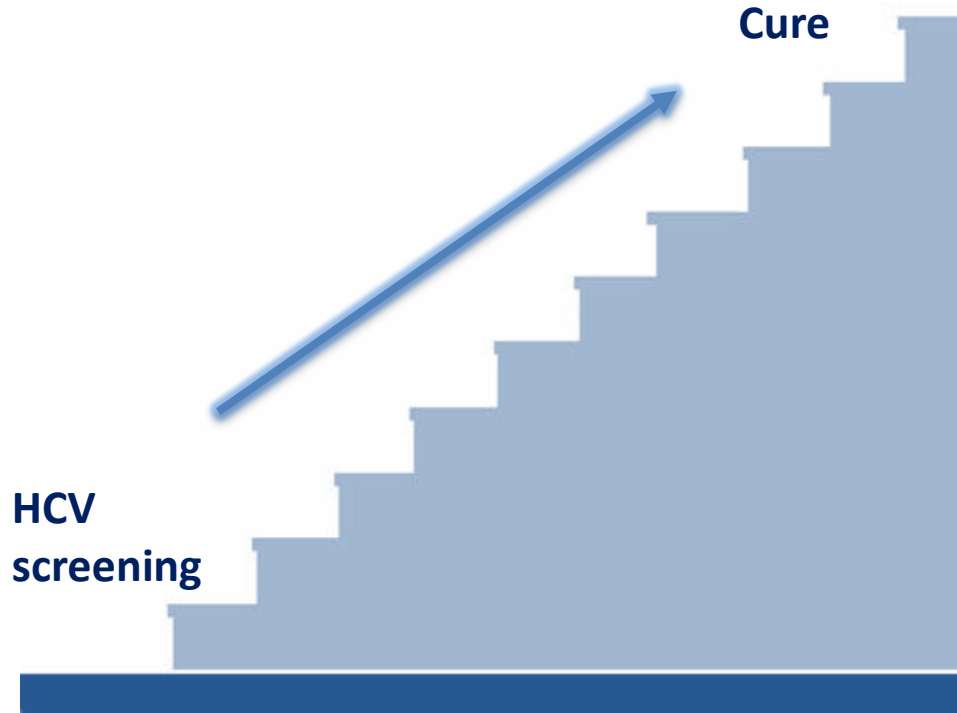
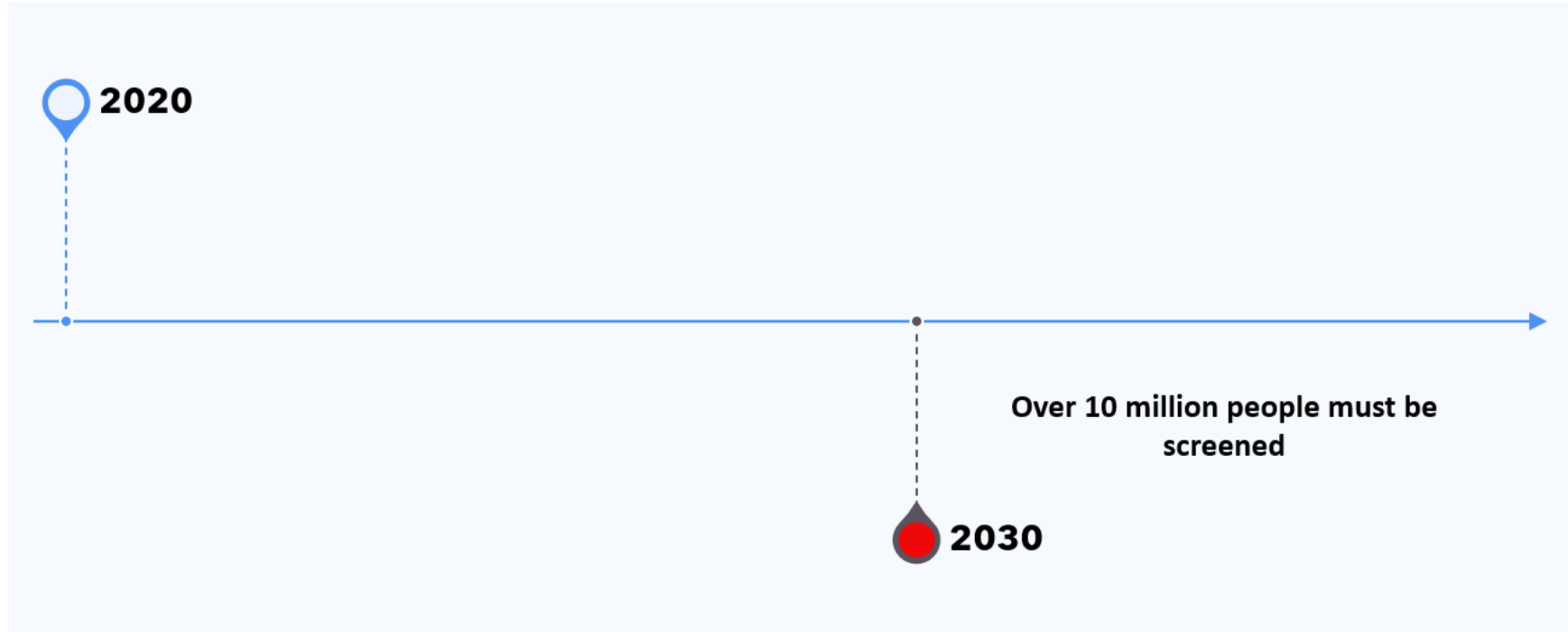


Call To Action





NYS HCV Screening Target



New NYS HCV Screening Requirements

All Adults

- Require the offer of an HCV screening test to everyone age 18 years and older.
- Require the offer of an HCV screening test to all individuals younger than 18 years of age, if there is evidence or indication of risk activity.
- If the HCV screening test is reactive, an HCV RNA test is performed on the same specimen or a second specimen collected at the same time.
- All persons with a detectable HCV RNA test receive follow-up HCV health care and treatment

***New* NYS HCV Screening Requirements**

All Pregnant People

- Order an HCV screening test for all pregnant people.
- If the HCV screening test is reactive, an HCV RNA test is performed on the same specimen or a second specimen collected at the same time.
- All pregnant persons with a detectable HCV RNA test receive follow-up HCV health care and treatment.
- Record the HCV test results prominently in the pregnant person's medical record at or before the time of hospital admission for delivery.

Take action to increase HCV screening

- ✓ Implement new HCV screening requirements
 - ✓ Educate staff
 - ✓ Establish/Review/Revise HCV testing policies and protocols
 - ✓ Develop prompt in electronic health record

Take action to increase HCV screening

- ✓ Ensure reflex testing is being performed
 - ✓ Check with your lab
 - ✓ Modify EHR to only allow the ordering of an HCV screening test with reflex
 - ✓ Educate providers
 - ✓ Educate staff on proper specimen collection procedures
- ✓ Increase awareness among clients

Take action to increase HCV screening

- ✓ If not offering HCV testing:
 - ✓ Consider HCV rapid testing where phlebotomy is not available (fingerstick)
 - Dried blood spot for HCV RNA (fingerstick)
 - ✓ Partner with an organization that performs HCV testing

HCV Testing Resources

- NYSDOH HCV web site
 - https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/
- CDC HCV testing information
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>
- HCV reflex testing
 - https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/providers/reflex_testing.htm

Education Materials

Hepatitis C Testing

Getting tested for hepatitis C or hep C is the only way to know if you have hep C. It's estimated that over 90,000 New Yorkers are living with hep C, but most don't even know it. Take your time and get tested.

How is hepatitis C diagnosed?

Fast tests are needed to determine if you have hep C. It's the hep C antibody test, and the hep C RNA test. Your health care provider may perform both tests from one blood sample.

Hepatitis C antibody test

The first test is the hep C antibody test, which looks for antibodies to the virus in your blood. These are your body's attempt to fight off the hep C virus. If you have them, then at some point you were infected with hep C. The hep C antibody test can be done by collecting a blood sample and sending it to a laboratory, or by a rapid test using a hep C rapid antibody test. A hep C antibody test cannot tell either for non-reactive (negative) or reactive (positive).

- A non-reactive or negative antibody test means that you are not currently infected with the hep C virus. However, if you have engaged in risky behavior such as sharing injection drug equipment in the last 6 months, you will need to be tested again.
- A reactive or positive antibody test means that you have antibodies to hep C in your blood. This means that you were exposed to hep C at one time. It does not always mean that you still have hep C. A second test is needed to know if hep C is active in your body right now. Once you have a reactive antibody test, future antibody tests will always come back reactive.

Hepatitis C RNA test

The second test is called a hep C RNA test. It checks to see if the hep C virus is in your blood. A hep C RNA test result can be either undetectable (negative) or detectable (positive).

- An undetectable or negative RNA test result means you do not have hep C. Your body has cleared the infection on its own or you were successfully treated and cured. This does not mean that you cannot get hep C again. If you engage in high risk activities, be sure to get tested again in 6 months.
- A detectable or positive RNA test result means that you have hep C. You should talk to your health care provider about [treatment for hep C](#).

Who should get tested for hepatitis C?

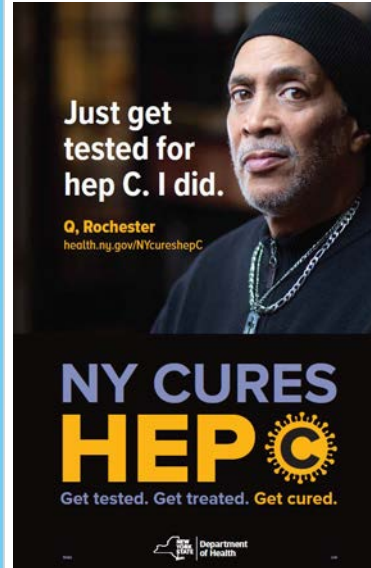
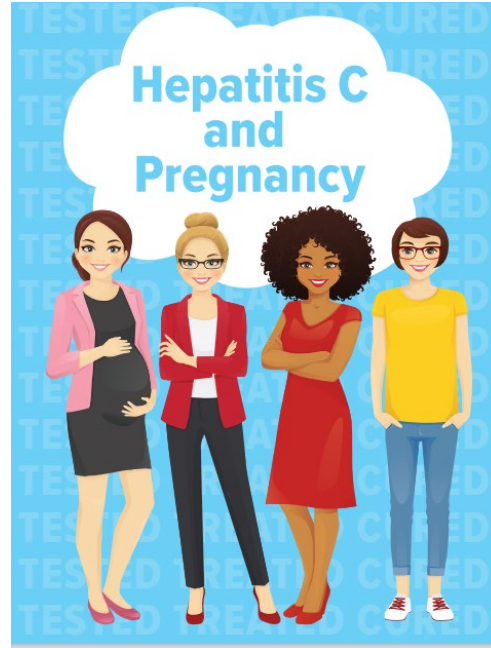
All adults, pregnant persons, and people with risk factors should get tested for hepatitis C. Talk to your health care provider about getting tested.

You should be tested for hepatitis C, if you:

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are pregnant
- Injected drugs, even just once many years ago
- Have HIV
- Received donated blood or organs before 1992
- Received clothing before 1987
- Got a tattoo or body piercing from an unlicensed artist, such as on the street or while in jail
- Were exposed to blood on the job through a needlestick or injury with a sharp object
- Were ever on long-term dialysis
- Snorted drugs

Where can you get tested for hepatitis C?

For testing locations in New York State go to: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/provider_testing_locations.htm



SHOULD YOU BE TESTED FOR

HEP C?

What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus. Hepatitis C can lead to serious liver damage. Hepatitis C progresses slowly and often has no symptoms. Many people have hepatitis C and don't know it. The only way to know if you have hepatitis C is to get tested.

Why Get Tested for Hepatitis C?

There are things you can do to fight hepatitis C. Early detection can help. Knowing your hepatitis C status will help prevent transmission to others. Hepatitis C is a curable condition for most people. Today, hepatitis C treatment is effective, easy to take and has few side effects. Even if you do not start treatment, you can take steps to keep your liver healthy, such as avoiding alcohol and getting vaccinated for hepatitis A and B.

Get Tested for Hepatitis C if You:

- Are 18 years of age or older, at least once
- Are pregnant
- Injected drugs, even just once many years ago
- Received donated blood or organs before 1992
- Received clotting factor before 1987
- Got a tattoo or body piercing from an unlicensed artist, such as on the street or while in jail
- Have HIV
- Were exposed to blood on the job through a needlestick or injury with a sharp object
- Were ever on long-term dialysis
- Snorted drugs

For a list of free hepatitis C testing sites in New York State go to: [health.ny.gov/hepatitis](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/provider_testing_locations.htm)

Thank you

