

# Next Steps to Hepatitis C Elimination

For states working to eliminate hepatitis C, acquiring curative medications in bulk is a critical step. But it is only part of a comprehensive elimination strategy. Available medication won't cure people with hepatitis C unless it's coupled with several other important actions.



To get hepatitis C cures to the people who need them, state policymakers need a comprehensive strategy.

## Key Policy Considerations



**Educate  
the Public**



**Expand  
Testing**



**Reduce Access  
Barriers**



**Treat the  
Whole Patient**

**Educate the Public.** Educating the public about hepatitis, its dangers and available treatments is paramount. Knowledge empowers people to make informed choices regarding testing, treatment and supplementary services. Awareness campaigns that emphasize the benefit of early detection and treatment can be instrumental in reducing the burden of the disease.

**Expand Testing.** Patients far too often get lost in the care system due to protracted test result wait times. Point-of-care testing marks a significant advancement that speeds up diagnosis and, in turn, treatment. This type of testing needs to be more widespread and easily accessible.

**Reduce Access Barriers.** While treatment access has improved over time, patients still face treatment barriers. Some health plans require people to demonstrate sobriety before they can receive curative treatment, while others delay access until a patient's hepatitis has advanced to late-stage fibrosis. In other instances, health plans limit which types of clinicians can prescribe curative treatment. To eliminate hepatitis C, policymakers must reduce barriers like these.

**Treat the Whole Patient.** Many people with hepatitis C have a history of substance use disorder, economic hardship or mental health struggles. When these patients need additional support, clinicians should be equipped to refer them to the appropriate resource. Addressing underlying challenges rounds out a comprehensive, patient-centered approach to disease elimination.



**Policymakers must make meaningful strides in eliminating this deadly and persistent public health challenge.**



**Alliance for  
Patient Access**

Learn more about policy solutions in  
**"A Path to Hepatitis C Elimination  
for Policymakers."**

**AllianceforPatientAccess.org**

