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WHY THIS GUIDE?

Viral hepatitis refers to hepatitis caused by a few specific viruses that primarily attack the liver. Although there has been significant progress made in the prevention of viral hepatitis, untreated and new infections are still a serious problem in San Francisco. To enhance early detection, prevention and medical care for viral hepatitis infection, the San Francisco Department of Public Health identified a need for a resource directory that would list local viral hepatitis services for the use of both providers and their clients. This is only a first edition of this resource guide, and we have doubtless missed some services. For edits and additions to the next version, please contact Emalie Hurliaux, at emalie.hurliaux@sfdph.org or 415-437-4694.

It is simple to prevent both hepatitis A and hepatitis B with vaccinations, once both providers and clients understand the need and benefits. Hepatitis C prevention relies on knowledge and behavior change, as no vaccination for it currently exists, and is now the most common chronic blood-borne viral infection in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

During 1995–2006, hepatitis A incidence in the US declined 90% to the lowest rate ever recorded (1.2 cases per 100,000 population). Declines were greatest among children and in those states where routine vaccination of children was recommended beginning in 1999. However, since then an increasing proportion of cases occur in adults, particularly in high-risk populations (international travelers, injection drug users, and men who have sex with men). Vaccination to protect against hepatitis A has been recommended for these populations since 1996, but greater outreach and coverage is needed.

During 1990–2006, acute hepatitis B incidence in the US declined 81% to the lowest rate ever recorded (1.6 cases per 100,000 population). However, these declines are not evenly applied, and one in ten Asian Americans have hepatitis B, accounting for half of all cases of chronic hepatitis B in the United States. Without treatment, 15-40% of people with chronic hepatitis B infection will ultimately develop serious and potentially life-threatening liver disease. 1.25 million people in the United States have chronic hepatitis B.

Hepatitis C disproportionately affects people of color, veterans, injection drug users, the homeless and inmates. An estimated 4.1 to 5 million Americans (>1.6%) have been infected with HCV, of whom 3.2 million (78%) have chronic hepatitis C. An estimated 650,000 people in the state of California have been infected with hepatitis C, of whom an estimated 447,000 have chronic hepatitis C. Hepatitis C-related mortality rates in California doubled from 1995 to 2004. In San Francisco County, hepatitis C-related mortality rates were 60% higher than the state average, rising from 2.30 deaths per 100,000 in 1995 to 5.37 deaths per 100,000 in 2004.¹

After peaking in the late 1980s, the incidence of hepatitis C declined steadily through the 1990s. This decline was attributable primarily to a decrease in incidence among injection drug users (IDUs), likely reflecting adoption of risk reduction practices among IDUs and increased syringe access through syringe exchange programs. Since 2003, declines in new hepatitis C rates have leveled off, with injection drug use remaining the most commonly identified risk factor for infection. An estimated 91% of all 18,000 IDUs² in San Francisco have been infected with hepatitis C, including 45% of young IDUs.³ There is clearly an unmet need for improved prevention, testing, and treatment among this population.

¹Personal communication, Rachel McLean, Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, California Department of Public Health April 8, 2008

² Tseng FC, O'Brien TR, Zhang M, Kral AH, Ortiz-Conde BA, Lorvick J, Busch MP, Edlin BR. Seroprevalence of hepatitis C virus and hepatitis B virus among San Francisco injection drug users, 1998 to 2000. *Hepatology*. 2007 Sep;46(3):666-71.

³ Hahn JA, Page-Shafer K, Lum PJ, Ochoa K, Moss AR. Hepatitis C virus infection and needle exchange use among young injection drug users in San Francisco. *Hepatology*. 2001 Jul;34(1):180-7.

THE ABCs OF VIRAL HEPATITIS

WHAT IS HEPATITIS?

Hepatitis means “Inflammation of the Liver”. Hepatitis can have many different causes, including viruses, heavy long-term alcohol use, side effects from certain medicines, and illnesses passed down from your parents. There are three main viruses responsible for many cases of hepatitis: hepatitis A, B, and C. Each hepatitis virus works differently, but they can all cause liver inflammation. In some cases, viral hepatitis can lead to serious scarring of the liver, also called cirrhosis. Cirrhosis can be very serious and even life-threatening, and in some people cirrhosis can lead to liver cancer and liver failure.

The liver helps to keep your body functioning smoothly. Your liver helps digest food and get rid of toxins and other chemicals foreign to your body. You can take steps to prevent viral hepatitis, and even if you have viral hepatitis you can do a lot to stay healthy and take care of your liver.

HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A (HAV) is a virus found in feces. You can get hepatitis A even if you haven't had direct contact with infected feces. The most common way that HAV infection happens is through swallowing contaminated food or water. You can also get HAV through sexual acts like rimming. In either case, the virus can be transmitted by tiny amounts of feces that you can't see. Hands that are not washed thoroughly or have been contaminated by sewage contaminate foods and liquids. People can also get HAV through injecting drugs using contaminated water.

Almost everyone infected with hepatitis A recovers completely in about 4 to 8 weeks. You may have no symptoms, or you may suffer from nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin and/or eyes), diarrhea, and an extreme lack of energy. Hepatitis A is rarely dangerous, unless you already have liver disease due to another cause, such as hepatitis C. When you have active HAV, you can pass the virus to another person, even if you have no symptoms. Once you recover, you can't spread HAV and you are immune to getting it again.

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B (HBV) is caused by a virus found in bodily fluids including blood, semen, and vaginal fluids. Hepatitis B is primarily spread through sex, and can also be spread among people who inject drugs by sharing syringes or other injection equipment. Hepatitis B can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her baby during birth. Hepatitis B may also spread through direct contact with the blood of a person who is infected, or by sharing personal items (razors, toothbrushes) with someone who has the virus.

Most adults will develop some symptoms in the first few months after becoming infected with hepatitis B. Symptoms may include fever, nausea, fatigue, pain in the abdomen, or jaundice. Most people recover completely from HBV within about 6 months, and will never become infected again. However, 5-10% of people who get HBV will remain infected. These people are said to have chronic HBV. Some of these people with long-term HBV infection may later develop liver disease.

HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C (HCV) is another virus found in blood and mostly transmitted through blood to blood contact. It is usually spread by sharing syringes or other equipment among people who inject drugs. Hepatitis C may also be transmitted through sex, though this happens rarely. In the past, many people got HCV from blood transfusions, but this is now extremely rare in the United States. Some health care workers have gotten infected through needlestick injuries at work. A small percentage of babies born to women with HCV become infected. Contact with the blood of a person with HCV through sharing razors or toothbrushes may

also transmit the virus. It may also be possible to get HCV from tattooing or body piercing if standard hygiene procedures were not followed.

Many people do not know that they are infected with hepatitis C and do not feel sick or have symptoms. Most people do not get any symptoms when they are first infected, though some people will experience fever, nausea, fatigue, pain in the abdomen, or jaundice. Some people will recover from HCV within about 6 months after getting infected but most people will remain infected. These people are said to have chronic HCV. Some of these people with long-term HCV infection may later develop liver disease.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ACTIVE HEPATITIS INFECTION

- *Fatigue*
- *Mild fever*
- *Muscle or joint aches*
- *Nausea/vomiting*
- *Loss of appetite*
- *Mild stomach pain*
- *Loss of taste for cigarettes*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Dark urine*
- *Light-colored stools*
- *Jaundice*

Unfortunately, viral hepatitis often goes undiagnosed because the symptoms are mild or suggest only a flu-like illness. Many people have no symptoms at all. The only way to know for sure if you have viral hepatitis is to have a blood test.

HOW TO AVOID GETTING HEPATITIS

To Prevent Hepatitis A:

- **GET VACCINATED: the vaccine is highly effective, and is given in two shots, six months apart.**
- Be as careful as possible to only eat food prepared under clean conditions.
- Wash your hands thoroughly if you are a caretaker of small children or sick people after you change diapers or clean up feces
- Wash your hands thoroughly after using the bathroom, and before cooking or eating.

To Prevent Hepatitis B:

- **GET VACCINATED: the vaccine is highly effective, and is given in three shots over a six-month period.**
- Use barrier protection if/when having sex.
- Use the safer injection guidelines outlined in the resources for drug users section.

To Prevent Hepatitis C:

- **THERE IS NO VACCINE FOR HEPATITIS C.**
- Use the safer injection guidelines outlined in the resources for drug users section.
- If you get a tattoo or body piercing, make sure the tattooist uses an autoclave to sterilize their needles and tattoo and piercing supplies.
- Use barrier protection if/when having sex.

WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR HEPATITIS A & B VACCINES?

Getting vaccinated can prevent hepatitis A and B. **Currently, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C.** The HAV vaccine consists of two shots over 6 months. The HBV vaccine consists of 3 shots over 5-6 months

To get full immunity against hepatitis A or B, you must get all of the shots in each series. However, even one shot offers some protection.

If you are chronically infected with hepatitis C, you may be at an increased risk for serious and possibly life-threatening liver disease if you become infected with hepatitis A. If you have the hepatitis C virus, vaccination against hepatitis A is medically necessary. Because so many injection drug users are also at risk for hepatitis B, vaccination against both hepatitis A and B is advisable.

WHERE DO I GET HEPATITIS A & B VACCINES?

Your regular health provider, if you have one, is the best person to ask for vaccination because you can get the shots in the context of all your health needs. If that is not possible, this guide lists clinics that provide free or low-cost vaccines.

Some doctors may test you before vaccination to see if you are already protected because you were infected in the past. However, the vaccinations are safe even if you were previously infected with hepatitis A or B.

TREATMENT

There is no medication for hepatitis A or for acute hepatitis B. Rest and avoiding things that are toxic to your liver (like alcohol) help the healing process. In severe cases, there are medicines that lessen the symptoms of HAV and HBV.

Several treatments are available for chronic hepatitis B, though not everyone with chronic HBV needs treatment. Most HBV treatments come in the form of daily pills. Treatment for chronic HBV is generally long-term.

Hepatitis C can be treated with a combination of a weekly injection of interferon and daily pills (ribavirin). Hepatitis C treatment generally lasts for one year, though some people only need six months of treatment. Treatment works in about 40-50% of people with HCV, though it can have many side effects. Not all people with HCV will need treatment, depending on the condition of their liver.

MANAGING CHRONIC HEPATITIS B

- ❖ Get the hepatitis A vaccine to avoid further damage to the liver.
- ❖ See a doctor who has experience with hepatitis B to get tests to learn more about the condition of your liver and whether you should consider treatment.
- ❖ Though antiviral therapy is available, it is not recommended for all chronically infected people. Treatment should be determined based on regular monitoring for the development and extent of liver disease.
- ❖ Avoid alcohol, drugs, herbal supplements and other substances that could potentially damage the liver.
- ❖ Consider exercise, stress reduction, and improving your nutrition to improve your overall health and well-being.
- ❖ Receive an ultrasound every year to screen for liver cancer.

MANAGING HEPATITIS C

- ❖ See a doctor who has experience with hepatitis C to get tests to learn more about the condition of your liver and whether you should consider treatment.
- ❖ Try to cut back on alcohol, or stop all together. Drinking alcohol – especially having several drinks a week – can speed up and worsen liver damage from hepatitis C.
- ❖ Stop injecting drugs, or cut down. If you do inject drugs, follow safe injection practices (always use a sterile syringe; do not share drug solution, syringes, or drug preparation equipment).
- ❖ Talk to your doctor about whether you need to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B to protect your liver from further harm.
- ❖ Consult your doctor about any medicines that you take, including over-the-counter drugs and herbal supplements. Some of these medicines may be harmful to your liver if you also have hepatitis C.
- ❖ Consider exercise, stress reduction, and improving your nutrition to improve your overall health and well-being.
- ❖ Many people use complementary or alternative therapies to treat viral hepatitis, such as acupuncture, meditation, herbs, vitamins, and nutritional therapies.

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

SAFER INJECTION GUIDELINES TO REDUCE HEPATITIS RISK

- ❖ It's safest to use a new, sterile syringe and equipment (including cotton, filters, caps, spoons, cookers, and alcohol swabs) **every time you inject**. You can get new syringes in exchange for used ones at needle exchange programs. Syringe access and disposal programs and other harm reduction programs can also provide you with cotton, alcohol swabs, and clean water.
- ❖ Although bleach can kill hepatitis B and HIV, we do not know if it kills hepatitis C. We recommend a new sterile syringe for every injection, but if this is not possible, proper bleaching is better than nothing. Leave the bleach in the syringe for as long as possible, ideally up to two minutes. If you don't have bleach, use water to rinse out your syringe thoroughly.
- ❖ If you are splitting drugs with another person, be careful to use a clean cooker and cotton, and split the drugs with a clean syringe. Splitting drugs with a used syringe can transfer small amounts of blood from the used syringe to everyone else, even people using a new syringe to inject. If you don't have a clean syringe to split the drugs with, split them dry instead of mixing them together.
- ❖ Hepatitis C found in blood outside the body can remain infectious for up to 2 days – longer if the blood is inside a syringe. Clean up after shooting up, and **don't put your syringe, plunger, or needle down on a dirty surface**- such as a tabletop that might have blood on it-Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after injecting, and be careful not to get blood on your equipment (such as cotton/filters and ties/tourniquets).
- ❖ Use sterile water if possible. Otherwise, **always use the cleanest water you can find** for mixing and injecting drugs and rinsing injection equipment. If you only have one source of clean water, like a water bottle from a bleach kit, don't contaminate the water – avoid drawing up from it with a used syringe that could still have blood in it.
- ❖ **Prepare and inject your own drugs yourself, if at all possible.** One study has suggested that you have higher risk of sharing needles if other people inject you: your partner might not be as careful about using someone else's syringe as you would be! Another study has observed groups of users where only one person knew how to shoot up. The person doing the injecting would get blood on his or her finger and then touch (and contaminate) the injection sites of everyone else in the group. If you can't inject yourself, make sure that the person who's injecting you does not get his or her blood, or anyone else's, on or around your injection site. And make sure that he or she uses a new or at least properly cleaned syringe.
- ❖ **Talk to the people that you inject with** about hepatitis C. Make sure everybody knows the risks, and how to prevent spreading it to each other. If you know that you have hepatitis C, protect the people that you use drugs with.

SYRINGE ACCESS & DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

Since 2005, California law has allowed San Francisco pharmacists (who elect to do so) to sell syringes to adults without a prescription. Syringes are now available for sale at all Walgreen's stores in San Francisco and at some Rite Aid stores. A list of pharmacies where syringes are being sold is available by calling 415-863-AIDS.

HIV Prevention Project

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
(415) 241-5100

Site/ Schedule:

- **Mon:** 1pm- 3pm, 4720- 3rd St. (Btw New Comb & Oakdale), Bay View
- **Mon:** 7pm- 9pm, Ivy St. (Nr. Polk & Grove, Tom Waddell), Civic Center
- **Tues:** 10am-12n, 117-A 6th St. (Btw Mission & Howard), TL/ SOMA
- **Tues:** 6pm-8pm, Duboce St. (Nr. Church & Market, in Bikeway) Castro
- **Wed:** 6pm-8pm, 427 So. Van Ness St. (15th & 16th St.)
- **Last Wed's only:** 3:30pm- 5:30pm, 117-A 6th St. (for gay/ bi guys), TL/ SOMA
- **Thurs:** 4pm-6pm, Cesar Chavez (near underpass), @ Hampshire, Bayshore
- **Thurs:** 7pm- 9pm, Hemlock Alley, (Btw Post & Sutter, Off Polk) Tenderloin,
- **Fri:** 12n- 2pm, 117- A 6th St. (Btw Mission & Howard), Tenderloin/ SOMA
- **Fri:** 6pm-8pm, 234 Eddy St. (Btw Jones & Taylor, Nr Windsor Hotel),
- **Sat:** 3pm-11pm, 117-A 6th St. (Btw Mission & Howard), Tenderloin/ SOMA

San Francisco Needle Exchange

Homeless Youth Alliance
(415) 630-0744

Site/ Schedule:

- **Mon:** 5pm- 7pm, 584 Cole St. (Btw Haight & Page) [Youth]
- **Wed:** 5pm- 7pm, 584 Cole St. (Btw Haight & Page) [Youth]
- **Thurs:** 6pm-8pm, " Ladies Night" @ Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, 165 Capp, btwn 16th & 17th st., Mission (for women and trans women only)
- **Fri:** 5pm-7pm, 584 Cole St. (Btw Haight & Page), [Youth]

St. James Infirmary

(415) 554-8494

Site/ Schedule:

- **Tues:** 1pm- 6pm, 1372 Mission x 10th, St. James Infirmary, SOMA
- **Thurs:** 4pm- 6pm, 815 Hyde St. @ Sutter, 2nd Floor, Trans Thrive, Tenderloin

Tenderloin Health

(415) 431-7476

Site/ Schedule:

- **Wed:** 6pm- 8pm, 183 Golden Gate (@ Leavenworth, in Tenderloin Health Clinic) Tenderloin
- **Sun:** 2pm- 4pm, 183 Golden Gate (@ Leavenworth, in Tenderloin Health Clinic) Tenderloin

TRAINING

Harm Reduction Coalition & The Institute of HRC

1440 Broadway, Suite 510
 Oakland, CA 94612
 510-444-6969, hrcwest@harmreduction.org
<http://www.harmreduction.org>

The Institute of Harm Reduction Coalition (IHRC) is the first national training center focused exclusively on harm reduction. The purpose of HRTI is to increase understanding of the harm reduction philosophy; build the skills necessary to implement harm reduction strategies; strengthen harm reduction leadership across a diversity of disciplines and communities; and develop an awareness of the attitudes that contribute to discrimination against drug users and other marginalized groups. The Institute's consultants are available for a fee to provide technical assistance and training at your agency on the following Hepatitis topics:

- The ABC's of Viral Hepatitis
- African Americans & Hepatitis C
- Alcohol & Hepatitis C
- Complementary Treatment
- Hepatitis C & Active Users
- Hepatitis C & HIV Co-Infection
- Hepatitis C: A Practical Overview & Harm Reduction Strategies
- Hepatitis C Care & Treatment
- Hepatitis C Overview for Case Managers
- Hepatitis C Pre/Post-Test Counseling
- Hepatitis C Prevention
- Hepatitis C Screening
- Hepatitis Vaccinations
- Integrating Hepatitis C for Outreach & Peer Programs
- Methadone & Hepatitis C
- Peer Education
- Support Groups

Hepatitis C Support Project (HCSP)

Hepatitis C Training Workshops created by HCSP are available online at hcvadvocate.org. Trainers may also be available to come to your agency, conference, or event. Contact Alan Franciscus at alanfranciscus@hcvadvocate.org for more information

TESTING & VACCINATION				
WHERE	WHAT	WHEN	COST	ELIGIBILITY
Adult Immunization Clinic 101 Grove st. #102, San Francisco, CA 94102 www.sfdph.org/aic Phone: 415-554-2625	Hep A, B, C testing Hep A, B vaccination	M, W, TH, F 9 am - 4 pm Tu, 9 am- 3 pm	Tests HAVAb \$39 HBsAb \$39 HepC antibody \$63 Vaccines HAV \$ 58 x 2 HBV \$ 65 x 3	All
Adult Medical Center at SFGH 1001 Potrero Ave. San Francisco, CA 94110 415-206-8000	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Mon- Fri, 8:30 am - 12 pm		Patients with a primary doctor at SFGH
Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center 730 Polk St. 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109 415-292-3400	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep B Vaccination/ Hep B Screening	Wed & Fri, 4 - 8 pm & 1st Saturday of each month, 11 am- 3 pm	Sliding scale fee	SF residents
Castro Mission Health Center 3850 17th St. San Francisco, CA 94114 415-487-7500	Hep B Testing Hep B Vaccination	Monday- Friday, 8 am- 12 pm & 1 pm- 5 pm (call for same day appt)	MediCal/ MediCare accepted, sliding scale	Only tested when an STD is present, call for availability
Chinatown Public Health Center 1490 Mason St. San Fran, CA 94133 415-364-7910	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	2nd Saturday every month, 9am -12 pm	Sliding scale \$10 per shot	All
Chinese Hospital 845 Jackson st. 1st fl San Francisco, CA 94133 415-677-2488	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccinations	Testing: Mon - Sat 2 - 5 pm HBV vac, first Wed, 5 - 7 pm	Sliding scale fee \$20/per shot	All
Excelsior Health Services 1800 31st Ave. (at Noriega), San Francisco, CA 94122 415-677-2488	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep B Vaccination	Monday- Friday, 9 am- 12 pm, 1:30 pm- 3:30 pm	Sliding scale Hep B test free \$20 per shot	All
Glide Health Clinic 380 Ellis St, Room 418 San Francisco, CA 94102 www.glide.org 415-674-6140	Hep A, B Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Appointment times vary, please call,	Sliding scale fee for low income	All

Haight Ashbury Free Clinic 558 Clayton St. San Francisco, CA 94117 415-746-1950	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Call for an appointment	Sliding scale	Regular patients only
HIV Prevention Project Needle Exchange 117 6th St. San Fran, CA 415-241-5100	Hep C testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Saturdays from 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays 10-12, and the last three Fridays of the month from 12-2.	Free	All
Kaiser Permanente 2000 O' Farrell St. San Fran, CA 94102 www.kp.org 415-833-2200	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Call for an appointment	Insurance covered, co-payment needed	Kaiser Members Only
Lyon-Martin Health Services 1748 Market St, Suite 201 San Fran, CA 94102 415-565-7667	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Mon- Fri, 9 am- 4 pm, by appointment	Sliding scale, insurance also accepted	Low-income, uninsured women and transgender people
MAGNET 4122 18th St. San Fran, CA 94114 415-581-1600	Hep A & B Vaccination	Call for an appointment	Sliding scale	All, oriented to gay and bisexual
Mission Neighborhood Health 240 Shotwell San Fran, CA 94103 www.mnhc.org 415-552-3870	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Call for appointment	Sliding scale	All
North-East Medical Service 1520 Stockton St, San Fran, CA 94133 415-391-9686	Hepatitis B Testing / Vaccination	Clinic times vary, please call	Free vaccinations for 18 years old and under, adults need to call and ask cost	Low income/ non-Insured
Planned Parenthood Golden Gate 815 Eddy St, 2nd Fl. San Fran, CA 94109 www.ppgg.org 800-967-7526	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am- 5:30 pm, Friday 9 am- 5pm, Saturday 9 am- 12 pm	Sliding scale	All

Potrero Hill Health Center 1050 Wisconsin San Fran, CA 94107 415-648-3022	Hep A, B Testing	Times vary please call	Sliding scale	Must be a regular patient
Quickhealth 2400 Mission St. San Fran, CA 94110 www.quickhealth.com 415-643-6162	Hep A,B, C testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Appointment only	Tests- HAVAb \$39 HBsAb \$39 HCV \$99 Vaccines- Hepatitis A, \$79/shot, Hepatitis B \$149 for all 3 shots	All
San Francisco City Clinic 356 7th St San Fran, CA 94103 www.sfcityclinic.org 415-487-5500	Hep A, B Vaccination	Drop-In Hours 8:00-4:00 M-W-F 1-6:00 Tuesday 1-4:00 Thursday	Free, by donation	All
San Francisco State University 1600 Holloway St San Fran, CA www.sfsu.edu~shs 415-338-1215	Hep A & B testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Drop in basis	Hepatitis B Surface Antibody, \$5, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, \$5, Hepatitis A \$40, Hepatitis B \$50, Combo A & B \$75	SFSU students
SFVA Medical Center 4150 Clement St. San Fran, CA 94121 415-221-4810	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Monday- Friday, 7:30am- 4pm	Insurance accepted	Drop in clinic for veterans
South East Health Center 2401 Keith St. San Fran, CA 94124 415-671-7000	Hep A, B, C testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Appointment only	Sliding scale	Must be a regular patient
South of Market Health Center 551 Minna St, San Fran, CA 94103 415-626-2951	Hep B Testing/ Hep B Vaccination	Monday- Thursday, 8 am- 12 pm, 1pm- 5 pm, Friday & Saturday, 8 am- 12 pm, 1 pm- 3:30 pm	Sliding scale fee, insurance also accepted	All

St. James Infirmary 1372 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94103 415-554-8494	Hep C testing Hep B screening Hep A, B Vaccination	Tuesday: 1-6 pm for testing only; 3-6 pm for vaccines <i>on call</i> Wed & Thur 6-8pm, all services	Free	SF bay area sex workers, their current partner(s), & their children
Sunset Health Services 1800 31st Avenue San Francisco, CA 94122 415-677-2388	Hep B test Hep A, B Vaccination	Monday- Friday, 9am-12pm, 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Hep B test is free \$20 per shot,	Private clinic, call for services.
Tenderloin Health 187&255 Golden Gate Ave., SF, CA 94102 415-437-2900	Hep C testing	T,W,Th 6-8 pm Th 8:30-11:30 am & 1-4 pm, Sunday 2-4 pm	Free	Primarily homeless
Tom Waddell Health Clinic 50 Lech Walesa (Ivy) st San Fran, CA 415-355-7400	Hep A, B, C Testing Hep A, B Vaccination	Intake clinic for primary care every Tuesday from 2-4pm for PLWHA, homeless or marginally housed and transgender	Hepatitis services for primary care patients only.	Primarily homeless, PLWHA, and transgender. Urgent medical care clinic open to all.
UCSF AIDS Health Project 1930 Market Street San Fran, CA 94102 http://www.ucsf-ahp.org 415-476-3902	Hep B Vaccination	Monday- Friday: 9 am- 2 pm, 1 pm- 5 pm	Sliding scale & MediCare/ MediCal also accepted	All
UCSF Medical Center at Mt. Zion 2300 Post Street, 1st fl. San Fran, CA 94115 415-885-3580	Hep B testing & Vaccination	1st Saturday of each month, 9 am- 12 pm	Free	All
Women's Community Clinic 2166 Hayes St # 104 San Fran, CA 94117 415-379-7800	Hep A, B test (HCV test if combined with HIV test) Hep B Vaccination	Call for an appointment	Donation requested	Women

SUPPORT & COUNSELING

HEPATITIS HOTLINES

American Liver Foundation	800-465-4837
California AIDS Hotline	800-367-2437
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	888-443-7232
Hepatitis C Connection	800-522-4372
Hepatitis Foundation International	800-891-0707
HIV / AIDS / Hepatitis C Nightline	800-273-2437
Latino Organization for Liver Awareness	888-367-5652
Veterans Affairs National Hepatitis C Program	800-827-1000

SUPPORT GROUPS

In San Francisco

American Liver Foundation

Acute Liver Failure Support Group
 Contact: Jodi Takahashi (925) 580-5336
 Meets quarterly by phone/email

California Pacific Medical Center

2340 Clay St.
 San Francisco, CA 94115

- Chronic Hepatitis B Group,
 Contact: Katie Ponting 415-600-1163
- Hepatitis C Support Group
 2351 Clay St Rm 309
 415-285-6893, Meets first & third
 Tuesday, 6:45 - 8:00 pm
- Liver Transplant Support Group,
 Contact: Marjorie Davis 415-600-1035,
 Meets every Monday and Thursday,
 10-11:30 am

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Hepatitis C Support Group
 455 Valencia St.
 San Francisco, CA 94103
 Contact: Mark Sorenson 415-861-4964,
 quanyinthree@aol.com

- General HCV support group, Meets 1st
 & 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-7:45 pm
- Share the experience group (oriented
 towards treatment) 2nd & 4th Thursdays

San Francisco General Hospital

San Francisco HEPNADA
 Medical Center - Building 80
 995 Potrero Ave. 6th Floor
 Contact: Val Robb, RN 415.206.4370 Info Line
 415.974.4370 hepnada@gmail.com
 Every Tuesday 5:00-6:30 pm

San Francisco VA Medical Center

4150 Clement St. at 42nd Ave.,
 Bldg. 203; 1b-26A, San Francisco, CA
 Contact: Marian Kerbleski (RN)
 415-221-4810 x3759

- HCV co-infection group meets fourth
 Tuesday of every month, 12 noon
- Liver disease support group meets first
 Wednesday of every month. 6:30 pm

Sequoia Hospital

HCV Support Group
 749 Brewster Avenue
 Redwood City, CA 94063
 (650) 367-5998
 Meets third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

Shanti

- MSM HIV/HCV Co-Infection Group
 (must call for openings & location)
 John Olsen 415-674-4713
- Drop-in group for HCV-infected - all
 welcome, St. Mary's, 2235 Hayes St, 5th
 floor, 415-674-4724, Thurs 4 pm- 6 pm

Speed Project

SF AIDS Foundation
 117 6th Street btw. Mission/Howard
 gay/bi & heteroflexible guys
 Contact: Terry Morris TMorris@sfaf.org
 Harm Reduction group meets every Wednesday
 at 1:30-3 pm, includes HCV education and peer
 support

UCSF Medical Center

UCSF Liver Transplant Program Support Group
 505 Parnassus, Long Solarium
 San Francisco, CA
 Contact: Sherry Laemmermann
 415-353-1040
 Meets every Tuesday, 1-2 pm

Outside San Francisco**Hepatitis C Support Group**

1403 164th Ave.
 San Leandro, CA
 Contact Brett Bishop 510-481-8645
 Meets every Monday, 7-8:30 pm

Hayward Kaiser

Kaiser Hepatitis C Support Group
 Conference Room C-1
 27400 Hesperian Blvd.
 Hayward, CA
 Contact: Karen Forte (RN) 510-784-6695
 Meets third Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30
 pm

HEPPAC Syringe Exchange

HCV Support Group
 5323 Foothill Boulevard
 Oakland, CA 94601
 Contact: Donna Hatch 510-434-0307 x308
 Meets every other Friday, Noon-2 pm

Kaiser Permanente

HCV & Other Liver Diseases Support Group
 280 W. MacArthur Blvd, 12 floor
 Oakland, CA 94611
 Contact: Eileen Abrams 510-434-9553
 Meets third Saturday of every month, Noon-1:30
 pm

Mandana House

I Will Survive Hep C Support Group
 3989 Howe Street (Entrance on 40th St)
 Oakland, CA 94611
 Contact: Eric Hoffman 510-530-3293
 Meets first and third Monday of every month,
 7-8:30 pm

OASIS Clinic

Hepatitis C Support Group
 520 27th Street (at Telegraph)
 Oakland, CA 94612
 510-496-0189
oasisclinic@sbcglobal.net
www.oasisclinic.org
 Meets every Tuesday at noon. Arrive before
 noon. Lunch provided
 Tuesday evenings phone support group, 7 - 7:30
 pm 1-800-391-1709, code: 888185

Tri City Health Center

Hepatitis C Support Group
 39184 Liberty Street
 Fremont, CA 94538
 Contact: Lisa Carver 510-713-6690 x113
 Meets every other Friday, call for time

Marin Hepatitis & Liver Disease Support Group

Lobby Conference Room
 101 Lucas Valley Road
 San Rafael, California 94903
 Contact: Bill Remak, 707- 364-1802
wmremak@pacbell.net
 Meets 6:30 pm-8:00 pm every third Thursday of
 each month

DOCTORS SPECIALIZING IN VIRAL HEPATITIS

San Francisco

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gishr@sutterhealth.org
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Richard Kramer MD

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Walnut Creek**Ronald Wasserman MD**

Infectious Disease
 Doctors Medical Group
 1776 Ygnacio Valley Rd. #103
 Walnut Creek, CA 94598
 925-947-2334
 Specialty: Infectious diseases

Patient Assistance Programs for Hepatitis B & C Medications

Most pharmaceutical companies have patient assistance programs that provide free medications to people who meet their financial eligibility requirements. A few are listed below. To search for other patient assistance programs, *RxHelpForCalifornians* is a program that connects qualified, low-income people with discount prescription drugs, direct from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. <http://www.rxhelpforca.org>, 1-877-777-7815

Gilead (Hepsera): phone: 1- 800-226-2056

Schering-Plough (IntroA, PEG-Intron, Rebretol, Rebetron): phone: 1-800-521-7157

Roche (Referon-APegasy, Copegus): [Pegassist](#); phone: 1-877-734-2797

Valeant (Infergen): [Infergen Aspire*](#) ; phone: 1-888-668-3393

Three Rivers (Ribasphere [generic ribavirin]): [RibaCare](#); phone: 1-866-650-7422

CLINICAL TRIALS

*Patients considering participating in clinical research should talk about it with their physicians and medical caregivers and assess the pros and cons. Hepatitis C Support Project's guide to **Understanding Clinical Trials and Medical Research in Hepatitis C** is recommended reading.*
http://www.hcvadvocate.org/community/community_pdf/Clinical_Trials.pdf

The following studies were recruiting new volunteers as of 8/1/08. To check for other clinical trials, go to clinicaltrials.gov or centerwatch.com

[Entecavir Intensification for Persistent HBV Viremia in HIV-HBV Infection](#)

Conditions: HIV Infections; Hepatitis B

Interventions: Drug: Entecavir with continued standard of care antiretroviral therapy; Drug: continued standard of care with tenofovir in addition to emtricitabine or lamivudine

Location: San Francisco General Hospital

Contact: Anne Luetkemeyer, MD 415 476 4082 ext 130 aluetkemeyer@php.ucsf.edu

[HIV and Hepatitis Care Coordination in Methadone Treatment](#)

Conditions: Hepatitis, Viral, Human; HIV Infections

Intervention: Behavioral: HIV and Hepatitis Care Coordination

Location: San Francisco General Hospital Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program

Contacts: Carmen L Masson, Ph.D. 415.206.8404 carmen.masson@ucsf.edu

[A Randomized Trial of Vaccine Adherence in Young Injection Drug Users](#)

Conditions: Adherence; Community Outreach; HIV Risk Behaviors; Hepatitis A Vaccines; Hepatitis B Vaccines; Hepatitis C; Needle-Exchange Programs; Substance Abuse, Intravenous

Intervention: Behavioral: Needle-Exchange Programs

Location: University of California San Francisco Medical Center

Contact: Jamye L Ford, M.A. 415-476-4082 ext 287 jford@php.ucsf.edu

[A Phase 3 Study of Telaprevir in Combination With Pegasys® and Copegus® in Treatment-Naive Subjects With Genotype 1 HCV](#)

Condition: Hepatitis C

Interventions: Biological: Peg-Interferon-alfa-2a; Drug: telaprevir;
Drug: placebo matching telaprevir; Drug: Ribavirin

Contact: Central Call Center 877-634-VRTX medicalinfo@vrtx.com

[Efficacy and Safety of Clevudine Compared With Adefovir in Patients With HBeAg Positive Chronic Hepatitis Due to Hepatitis B Virus](#)

Conditions: Chronic Hepatitis; Hepatitis B

Interventions: Drug: Clevudine; Drug: Adefovir

Locations: Quest Clinical Research, Contact: Priscila-Grace Gonzaga 415-353-0212
UCSF/SFGH, Contact: Nadia Diamond-Smith 415-206-4061

Contact: clinical.trials@pharmasset.com

[Determining Responses to Two Different Vaccines in HIV and HCV Infected Individuals](#)

Conditions: HIV Infections; Hepatitis C

Interventions: Biological: Twinrix; Biological: Decavac

Location: UCSF PHP, San Francisco General

Contact: Michele Downing, RN, BSN. 415-514-0550 ext 354 mdowning@php.ucsf.edu

[Efficacy and Safety of Clevudine Compared With Adefovir in Patients With Chronic Hepatitis Due to Hepatitis B Virus](#)

Conditions: Chronic Hepatitis; Hepatitis B

Interventions: Drug: Clevudine; Drug: Adefovir

Location: San Francisco for Pharmasset

Contact: clinical.trials@pharmasset.com

[Phase 1b Study of Omega DUROS® in Patients With Chronic Hepatitis C Who Relapsed After Prior Treatment](#)

Condition: Chronic Hepatitis C

Intervention: Drug: Omega DUROS device

Location: California Pacific Medical Center

Contact: 415-600-1158

[Adaptive Phase I HCV Study With Nucleoside Analogue, in Combination With Interferon and Ribavirin](#)

Conditions: Healthy Volunteers; Hepatitis C Virus

Intervention: Drug: RO5024048

Location: Quest Clinical Research

Contact: Valorie Kolovos, RN 415-353-0800 valorie@questclinical.com

[Insulin resistance in hepatitis C infection \(in Latinos\)](#)

Conditions: Healthy Volunteers with or without Hepatitis C Virus infection: no diabetes; no HIV

Intervention: testing for insulin resistance and diabetes

Location: San Francisco General Hospital

Contact: Claudia Ayala, 415-206 3725

MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS & INFORMATION

Community Health Network of San Francisco

415-206-5166

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oservices/medSvs/hlthCtrs/default.asp>

Patient advocate visitor's center

Helplink

415-808-HELP

<http://211bayarea.org/>

- Information and referrals for mental health services
- Information for self-help groups in Bay Area
- English, Spanish, and Chinese operators

Mental Health Association of San Francisco

415-421-2926

870 Market Street, Suite 928

<http://www.mha-sf.org/>

- Information and referral to mental health service
- Advocacy organization

Network of Support for Community Living

<http://sanfrancisco.networkofcare.org/aging/home/index.cfm>

- Comprehensive, Internet-based community resource for the adults with disabilities and seniors, as well as their caregivers and service providers.

Northern California Psychiatric Society

415-334-2418

1631 Ocean Avenue

<http://www.ncps.org/>

- Information about mental health practice specialties
- Referral to mental health practitioners

San Francisco County Mental Health Access

415- 255-3737

TDD 888-484-7200

- 24 hours access line for those eligible for county services
- Those with MediCal or with no insurance
- Multi-lingual

San Francisco Psychological Association

415-681-3063

<http://www.sfpa.net/>

- Information and referrals for mental health services
- Multi-lingual

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

General

AIDS Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Call 415-939-6882 or 415-476-3902
ASAP provides substance use and harm reduction counseling and case management for people with concerns about HIV, mental health and substance use. They also have a harm reduction group every Thursday from 10:30-12noon. Some services are available in Spanish.

Alcoholics Anonymous

(415) 674-1821
Call for a schedule of meeting times and locations. There are hundreds of meetings every week throughout San Francisco and the Bay area.

Al-Anon and AlaTeen

San Francisco Info-Line
(415) 626-5633

Baker Places, Inc.

San Francisco, CA
(415) 864-1515
Residential substance treatment programs.

Drug Information and Referral

415- 255-3737
TDD 888-484-7200
A 24-hour hot line that provides information about and referrals to various substance treatment programs.

Haight Ashbury Free Clinics Integrated Care Center

1735 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
An outpatient program offering substance abuse treatment, primary care, and mental health services. The services are free or at a sliding scale.

Harm Reduction Therapy Center

www.harmreductiontherapy.org
San Francisco and Oakland
(415) 863-4282
The Harm Reduction Therapy Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

providing alternative treatment to people with drug and alcohol problems. Harm Reduction Psychotherapy is a non-judgmental approach and respects that people use drugs for reasons. Drug and alcohol issues are addressed simultaneously with social and occupational concerns and psychological and emotional issues.

The Latino Commission

<http://www.thelatinocommission.org>
301 Grand Avenue #301
South San Francisco, CA
650-244-1444
Provides residential and outpatient alcohol and/or other drug services primarily for Latino men and women. An emphasis is placed on sobriety and family reunification. Our program can be from six months to one year.

LifeRing

www.unhooked.com
"Empower your sober self." LifeRing offers secular abstinence-based meetings.

Narcotics Anonymous

(415) 621-8600
Call for meeting times and locations. There are hundreds of meetings every week throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area.

New Leaf Services

www.newleafservices.org
103 Hayes St.
San Francisco, CA
(415) 626-7000
Offers both abstinence-based and harm reduction-based treatment programs.

Oznam Detox Center

175 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA
(415) 252-5305
A 3 to 5 day drug and alcohol detox program. Open to San Francisco residents and sensitive to low income people, people with disabilities and sexual minorities.

Progress Foundation

415.861.0828

Progress Foundation provides individuals who are disabled due to mental illness with treatment alternatives to institutional placement with a full spectrum of treatment from short term Crisis Residential to moderate and long term Transitional Residential treatment.

Smart Recoverywww.smartrecovery.org

(415) 673-2848

SMART (Self-Management And Recovery Training) is an alternative to Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. SMART sponsors more than 300+ face-to-face meetings around the world, and 16+ online meetings per week.

Walden House Multi-Service Center

(415) 934-3449

Long term outpatient and day treatment programs for alcohol and drug users. Open to residents of San Francisco only.

Westside Community Serviceswww.westside-health.org

415-431-9000

Westside Community Behavioral Health Services provides treatment to San Francisco adult residents 18 or older who are chronically mentally ill, homeless and mentally ill, elderly, individuals with ethnic and/or lifestyle diversity, or individuals with co-occurring disorders.

Stimulant-Specific**Crystal Meth Anonymous Meetings**

For more information about Crystal Meth Anonymous in San Francisco, check out their website: BayAreaCMA.org

Drawtheline.org Buddies Program

Concerned about a friend or partner's meth use? Drawtheline.org's Buddies Program is a safe space for individuals who want to work out these challenges. For more info, visit drawtheline.org/buddies, call 415-355-2003 or contact Buzz Bense at buzzbense@aol.com

Life after Meth

2128 15th Street, San Francisco 6:30-8pm
First and third Fridays of every month.
Brandon Ivory at 415.846.5726 or by email at brandon.ivory@sfdph.org

The Life After Meth is a peer-based support group for gay and bisexual men to safely talk about topics important to remaining abstinent from, or reducing their use of Crystal Methamphetamine.

The Stonewall Projectwww.stonewallsf.org

3180 18th St, Suite 202

San Francisco, CA

(415) 487-3100

The Stonewall Project offers individual and group harm reduction counseling to bi, gay & queer men who want to change some aspect of their crystal methamphetamine use. In order to help you get rolling in their program, Stonewall provides drop-in service six days a week on a first-come, first-served basis.

S.T.O.P. (Stimulant Treatment Outpatient Program)

3180 18th St, Suite 202

San Francisco, CA

(415) 502-5777

An intensive outpatient harm reduction treatment program open to anyone having problems with speed, cocaine, crack or other stimulants.

Methadone Treatment**BAART/CDP Market Street Clinic**

1111 Market St.

San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: (415) 863-3883

**Bayview Hunters Point Foundation
Substance Abuse Programs**

1625 Carroll St.

San Francisco, CA 94124

Phone: (415) 822-8200

Epiphany Adult Residential

301 Masonic Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94118

Phone: (415) 750-1033

Fort Help Methadone Program

915 Bryant St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (415) 777-9953

Geary Clinic/BAART/CDP

1040 Geary St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 928-7800

Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program (OTOP)

1001 Potrero Ave.
San Francisco General Hospital,
Building 90 Ward 93
San Fran, CA 94110
(415) 206-8412
OTOP provides methadone maintenance dosing and counseling to heroin dependent clients in conjunction with medical and psychiatric services.

Tom Waddell Health Center

50 Ivy St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 355-750
(for primary care patients only)

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Substance Abuse Program

4150 Clement St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
Phone: (415) 750-2050

Westside Methadone Treatment Program

1301 Pierce St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: (415) 563-8200

Buprenorphine Specialists

Buprenorphine is a medication for opiate addiction that does not require daily or weekly visits to a clinic. Buprenorphine is the first oral medication approved in the U.S. that physicians can prescribe in their offices to people who are dependent or addicted to opiates such as pain medication, heroin, or methadone.

- **Diana Amodia M.D.** (415) 565-1908, Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc., 529 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117
- **Wayne Anderson D.O.** (415) 558-8584 45 Castro Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94114
- **Louai Bilal M.D.** (415) 206-6969, San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Avenue,, San Francisco, CA 94110
- **Deborah Brown M.D.** (415) 487-7500, Castro-Mission Health Center, 3850 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
- **Robert Cabaj M.D.** (415) 255-3447, 1380 Howard Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103
- **Mary Cooke M.D.** (415) 353-4624, Division of General Internal Medicine, UCSF 400 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0320
- **Raymond Deutsch M.D.** (415) 288-0400, 1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 215, San Francisco, CA 94111
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- **Stephanie Marsan M.D.** - (415) 206-5103, San Francisco General Hospital, Ward 93, 1001 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

- **Linette Martinez M.D.** - (415) 355-7500, 50 Ivy Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
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- **Rajesh Parekh M.D.** - (415) 748-0672, 43 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- **Thomas Quirk M.D.** - (415) 206-3645, San Francisco General Hospital, Dept of Psychiatry, 1001 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110
- **Frank Ranuska M.D.** - (415) 362-3611, Northpoint Centre, 2351 Powell Street, Suite 530, San Francisco, CA 94133-1443
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- **Daniel Wlodarczyk M.D.** - (415) 206-2400, San Francisco General Hospital, 995 Potrero Avenue, Ward 84, San Francisco, CA 94110
- **Wayne Wolfe M.D.** - (415) 221-4810, Dept. of VA Affairs Medical Center, 4150 Clement Street, 116E, San Francisco, CA 94121
- **Sophia Wong M.D.** - (415) 206-4845x4, San Fran. Gen. Hosp., 1M Adult Med. Cln., 1001 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

Hepatitis Online Resources

Medical Information & Self Care

- **Hepatitis C: An Introductory Guide for Patients**
<http://hepatitis.va.gov/vahep?page=basics-hcv-booklet>
- **Clinical Care Options - Hepatitis**
<http://clinicaloptions.com/hep>
- **Hepatitis C - An Epidemic for Anyone**
<http://www.epidemic.org>
- **Hepatitis C Home Test Kits**
http://www.homeaccess.com/Hepatitis_C_Test.asp
- **Mayo Clinic - Hepatitis C Information**
<http://mayoclinic.com/health/hepatitis-c/DS00097>
- **OASIS Clinic**
<http://oasisclinic.org>
- **Transplant Experience**
<http://www.transplantexperience.com>
- **Hepatitis B Foundation**
<http://www.hepb.org>
- **Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program "Ask a doctor"**
<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/doctalkquestion.php>
- **Hep C Meditations**
<http://www.hepCmeditations.org>

Hepatitis Advocacy Organizations

American Liver Foundation <http://www.liverfoundation.org>

A national nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and cure of hepatitis and other liver diseases through research, education, and advocacy. Web site features a database directory of hepatitis clinical trials, lay-oriented facts sheets, and links to additional resources.

California Hepatitis Alliance <http://www.calhep.org>

The (CalHEP) seeks to reduce the scope and consequences of the hepatitis B and C epidemics, which disproportionately affect California's ethnic communities and the socioeconomically underserved.

Frontline Hepatitis Awareness <http://frontline-hepatitis-awareness.com>

Hepatitis C Advocate Network <http://www.hepcan.org>

Hepatitis C Advocate Network is an all-volunteer organization representing persons living with HCV.

Hepatitis C Harm Reduction Project http://hepcproject.typepad.com/hep_c_project/

A resource for drug users sponsored by the Harm Reduction Coalition, a national advocacy and capacity-building organization that promotes the health and dignity of individuals and communities impacted by drug use.

Hepatitis C Support Project <http://www.hcvadvocate.org>

The Hepatitis C Support Project (HCSP) mission is to provide unbiased information, support, and advocacy to all communities affected by HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection, including medical providers. The website is a treasure trove of information.

Immunization Action Coalition <http://www.hepprograms.org/>

Latino Organization for Liver Awareness <http://www.lola-national.org>

Founded in 1994, LOLA is the first national bilingual bicultural organization dedicated to raising awareness on liver disease through informational materials, prevention and education community outreach programs, treatment and referral services, support groups, quarterly newsletters, HCV Prison Educational Presentations and HCV Public Education Campaigns to the Latino and American communities and other underserved populations who suffer from liver disease in the United States.

National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project (NATAP) <http://www.natap.org/hepc.htm>

Recognizing that co-infection with viral hepatitis among people with HIV is a growing problem, the National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project (NATAP) has developed an extensive amount of information on hepatitis, both in the context of HIV co-infection and as a separate illness. NATAP provides coverage of key conferences, maintains a selection of hepatitis articles, and features an ask-the-expert forum on hepatitis C.

National HCV Prison Coalition <http://www.hcvinprison.org>

National Hepatitis C Coalition, Inc. <http://nationalhepatitis-c.org>

The National Hepatitis C Coalition, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt hepatitis C coalition of patients and families dedicated to providing education and support through online communications, hep C hotline, and grassroots support networks across America.

Government

California Office of the Patient Advocate <http://opa.ca.gov> 916-324-6407

The Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA) is an independent office in state government charged with informing and educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities as HMO enrollees.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm>

Information on all types of viral hepatitis from the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases. Site features related CDC guidelines and recommendations as well as training materials, slide sets, fact sheets, and key CDC hepatitis documents. They also run a National Immunization Hotline 1-800-232-4636

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) <http://www.samhsa.gov>

SAMHSA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

buprenorphine for the treatment of opiate addiction (www.buprenorphine.samhsa.gov)

substance abuse treatment facility locator (www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov)

center for substance abuse treatment (www.csat.samhsa.gov)

US Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section <http://www.ada.gov> 800-514-0301; TDD 800-514-0383

Provides guidance regarding disability rights issues

US Department of Veterans Affairs, National Hepatitis C Program, <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov>