



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

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Dear Colleague:

Did you know that physicians are required to report new hepatitis C cases to the New York City Health Department? (NYC Health Code, Section 11.03; reporting is exempt from HIPAA.)

As there is no test that distinguishes acute from chronic infection, **we depend on clinicians such as you** to report new cases – **you are our only source** of these reports. Reporting acute hepatitis C helps the Department track disease trends and ascertain new populations at risk so we can target education and prevention measures and identify outbreaks.

Please report your patient if:

- S/he presents with discrete onset of signs and symptoms AND has elevated liver enzymes which you think may indicate an acute, new hepatitis C infection.
 - Symptoms include dark urine, pale stool, fatigue, jaundice, fever, loss of appetite, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain

OR

- S/he tested negative for hepatitis C in the past 12 months and now tests positive

How to report acute hepatitis C infection:

- Report cases in any of the following ways
 - By mail using the Universal Reporting Form (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/hcp/urf-0803.pdf>)
 - Online at www.nyc.gov/nycmed (registration needed)
 - By phone - call Katherine Bornschlegel, MPH, Hepatitis Surveillance Coordinator at 212-788-4390
 - When filling out the form:
 - Fill in the bubble that indicates acute infection under Hepatitis C.
 - In the “comments” section, provide details about why it appears to be a new infection, and describe the patient’s risk factors (e.g. injection drug use).

Please call Katherine Bornschlegel at 212-788-4390 if you have questions.
Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

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