



THE HEPATITIS C COMMUNITY ALLIANCE TO TEST AND TREAT

Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT)

Of the estimated 3.2 million persons living with hepatitis C virus infection in the U.S., an estimated 70,000 live in Chicago. Approximately 50% of those individuals do not know that they are infected. The Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT) program is a collaboration led by the University of Chicago Medicine to build healthcare system capacity to diagnose and cure hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. The program focuses on four key areas:

- **Raising awareness** of HCV through targeted public education campaigns, training sessions, outreach events, and social media
- **Improving care** by providing community-based providers advanced training on the testing, diagnosis, and treatment of HCV. Training is provided through 10-session case-based learning series delivered through the ECHO-Chicago videoconferencing platform. High tech videoconference systems allow PCPs to engage in case review and discussion similar to medical rounds, a standard in academic medical centers. The approach offers participants the opportunity to learn from a respected specialist and from each other about best practices in HCV prevention, screening and treatment tailored for community, primary care settings
- **Sharing knowledge** through a data surveillance system built to monitor and share clinical data from across the public health system to improve knowledge about the number of individuals tested for HCV, diagnosed with HCV, connected to care, and successfully treated
- **Expanding access** to affordable, accessible, high-quality care for HCV through targeted case management services that reduce barriers to treatment, such as transportation, medical insurance, drug abuse treatment and financial assistance programs. Case managers will link HCV-infected individuals without a medical home to affordable, accessible, high quality medical care from doctors who have been trained by ECHO-Chicago.

Under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Johnson, the HepCCATT team implemented a package of services aimed at Chicago populations with HCV-related health disparities, including “baby boomers” (individuals born between 1945 and 1965), African-Americans, risk taking adolescents and adults, and current and former injection drug users. The program brings together 11 partners in an unprecedented collaboration, including public health offices, major universities, corporate entities, and non-profit advocacy organizations. The partners include:





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Accomplishments **300+** providers trained through the ECHO-Chicago hepatitis C series, including over 200 prescribing providers. These providers now possess advanced expertise and skills to diagnose, treat, and cure HCV infection.

- **210** hepatitis C positive individuals directly managed through HepCCATT's case management program in partnership with COIP at the University of Illinois, including providing assistance with many barriers to treatment these individuals encounter daily.
- **11** care coordination and case management teams at health care clinics trained through the ECHO-Chicago hepatitis C case management series, which builds capacity at the community level to help individuals living with hepatitis C navigate care and other needed services
- **18** community health centers located throughout Chicago partnering with HepCCATT to build a strong network of clinics and PCPs who have the expertise to test, diagnose, treat, and cure HCV
- **20,000+** patients in the data surveillance system developed in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide real-time monitoring of population-level data on the number of individuals who are tested, diagnosed, treated, and cured for hepatitis C.
- HepCCATT participates in efforts to coordinate among medical, governmental, and legislative stakeholders to expand access and reduce the cost of HCV care.
- Increased awareness and knowledge of HCV among individuals in Chicago at risk for HCV has been addressed with several robust media campaigns in conjunction with the Chicago Department of Health, as well as area media outlets such as WVON radio, targeting the most at risk for HCV populations.
- Finally, HepCCATT benefits from the guidance and expertise of an external advisory board comprised of at least eight HCV experts and advocates.

We expect that the HepCCATT program will serve as a model to other urban, inner city healthcare partnerships to improve HCV testing and treatment.



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