



## Department of Health

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Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 2023

Dear Obstetricians and Gynecologists:

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) and the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) now recommend universal hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening of all pregnant persons during each pregnancy regardless of risk. The [New York State \(NYS\) HCV Elimination Plan](#) has identified universal HCV screening among pregnant people as a priority for moving NYS toward HCV elimination by 2030.

**Effective May 3, 2024, all NYS providers attending a pregnant person will be required to screen for HCV at each pregnancy and document the result prominently in the medical record at or before the time of hospital admission for delivery. HCV screening may occur at any time during pregnancy.**

An estimated 2.2 million persons nationally and 116,000 New Yorkers are infected with HCV. Forty percent of persons living with HCV do not know it. Nationally, rates of HCV have risen among persons of reproductive age. HCV among the U.S. obstetric population rose nearly 10-fold over the last 20 years. Injection drug use is the primary risk for HCV infection. Pregnant persons with HCV have a 6% chance of transmitting the virus to their baby. That chance doubles in babies born to individuals who are coinfecting with HIV and HCV or who have high HCV viral loads. Infection with HCV can result in adverse fetal outcomes.

The development of newer and simpler direct-acting antivirals (DAA) allows for more than 95% of patients to be cured. While DAAs have not yet been FDA-approved for use during pregnancy, studies are ongoing to assess the safety and efficacy of DAA use in pregnant people. Treatment can be considered during pregnancy on an individual basis after a patient-physician discussion about the potential risks and benefits. Furthermore, Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals during the [post-partum period](#) is increased from 60 days to 12 months, making HCV screening during pregnancy an important opportunity to identify future care needs for both the pregnant person and their baby.

NYS obstetrician–gynecologists play an important role in this effort. To support your practice in adopting the new HCV testing requirements, the NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute’s [Clinical Education Initiative \(CEI\)](#) has launched a digital toolkit of resources and technical assistance (TA) opportunities. The toolkit can be found on the [CEI web site](#). To request TA email [hepatabc@health.ny.gov](mailto:hepatabc@health.ny.gov).

Finally, new free education materials are also available at:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis\\_c/educational\\_materials.htm#Pregnancy](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/educational_materials.htm#Pregnancy)

- Protect your baby and yourself (Clinic posters)
- Protect yourself/Protect your baby (Patient postcard)

- Caring for your baby with hepatitis C, what you need to know. (Patient booklet)

We encourage you to join our efforts to ensure all pregnant New Yorkers are screened for HCV and those living with HCV are treated and cured. Together to eliminate HCV among pregnant people and all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kerwin  
Director, AIDS Institute

Enclosure: HCV Materials for Pregnant People – Order Form

New York State Department of Health – AIDS Institute

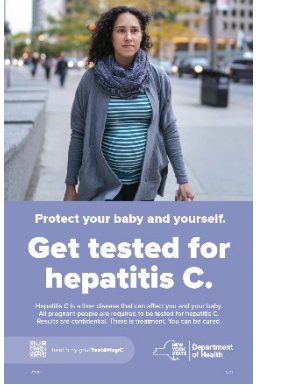
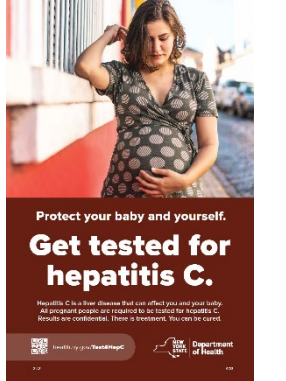

Educational Materials to Promote Hepatitis C Testing During Pregnancy

The New York State Department of Health offers limited quantities of free educational materials to New York State residents and organizations.


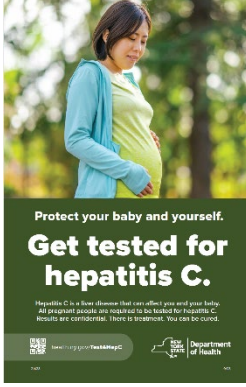


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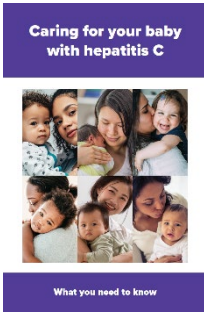
Materials for Consumers Available for Order

Title	Image	Language	Code #
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>		English	<a href="#">21420</a>
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>		English	<a href="#">21421</a>
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>		Spanish	<a href="#">21427</a>

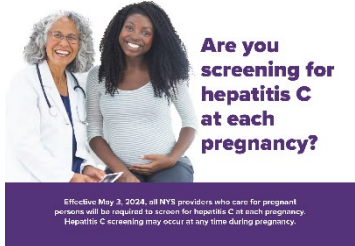
New York State Department of Health – AIDS Institute

Title	Language	Code #
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>	 <p>English</p> <p><a href="#">21422</a></p>	<hr/> <p>Spanish</p> <p><a href="#">21428</a></p>
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>	 <p>English</p> <p><a href="#">21423</a></p>	<hr/> <p>Spanish</p> <p><a href="#">21429</a></p>
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>	 <p>English</p> <p><a href="#">21424</a></p>	<hr/> <p>Spanish</p> <p><a href="#">21430</a></p>
<p><b>Protect Your Baby and Yourself – Poster</b></p> <p>This 11x17 poster aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people. 9/2023</p>	 <p>English</p> <p><a href="#">21425</a></p>	<hr/> <p>Spanish</p> <p><a href="#">21431</a></p>

New York State Department of Health – AIDS Institute

Title	Language	Code #
<p><b>Hepatitis C Testing During Pregnancy– Consumer Post card</b> – This 2-sided post card aims to encourage hepatitis C testing among pregnant people and follow-up testing for infants exposed to hepatitis C during pregnancy and birth. 9/2023</p> 	English	<a href="#">16140</a>
	Spanish	Coming soon
<p><b>Caring for Your Baby with Hepatitis C – What you need to know</b> – This 8-page booklet provides information for caregivers about the follow-up care needed for infants exposed to hepatitis C during pregnancy and birth. 10/2023</p> 	English	21432 Coming soon
	Spanish	Coming soon

Materials for Health Care Providers

Title	Language	Code #
<p><b>Hepatitis C Testing – Health Care Provider Fact Sheet</b> - This 2- page fact sheet for health care providers reviews New York State hepatitis C screening requirements. 9/2023</p>	English	<a href="#">1820</a>
<p><b>Are You Screening for Hepatitis C at Each Pregnancy? - Provider Postcard</b> This 2- sided postcard alerts healthcare providers about the New York State hepatitis C screening requirements during pregnancy. 9/2023</p> 	English	<a href="#">16135</a>

New York State Department of Health – AIDS Institute

Additional Digital Materials for Consumers

Title	Language	Code #
<p><b>Hepatitis C Testing – Consumer Fact Sheet – This 2-page fact sheet for consumers provides information about hepatitis C screening in New York and the meaning of the results. 9/2023</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="256 331 553 716"> </div> <div data-bbox="553 331 946 716"> </div> </div>	<p>English <a href="#">1821</a></p> <p>Spanish <a href="#">16152</a></p> <p>Arabic <a href="#">16143</a></p> <p>Bengali <a href="#">16144</a></p> <p>Chinese <a href="#">16145</a></p> <p>French <a href="#">16146</a></p> <p>Haitian Creole <a href="#">16147</a></p> <p>Italian <a href="#">16148</a></p> <p>Korean <a href="#">16149</a></p> <p>Polish <a href="#">16150</a></p> <p>Russian <a href="#">16151</a></p> <p>Urdu <a href="#">16153</a></p> <p>Yiddish <a href="#">16154</a></p>	
<p><b>Hepatitis C Facts – This 1-page fact sheet provides basic information on hepatitis C, symptoms, transmission, and prevention. 6/2021</b></p> <div data-bbox="695 741 995 1129"> </div>	<p>English <a href="#">1919</a></p>	
<p><b>Hepatitis C Testing – This 1-page fact sheet provides information about hepatitis C testing and diagnosis 6/2021</b></p> <div data-bbox="695 1148 995 1537"> </div>	<p>English <a href="#">1921</a></p> <p>Spanish <a href="#">1922</a></p>	
<p><b>Hepatitis C Treatment This 1-page fact sheet provides basic information about hepatitis C care and treatment. 6/2021</b></p> <div data-bbox="695 1547 995 1936"> </div>	<p>English <a href="#">1923</a></p> <p>Spanish <a href="#">1924</a></p>	



PUBLICATION REQUEST FORM

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