Hepatitis C Screening & Treatment
Recommendations for People with HIV*

Testing

Antibody Test
• Tests if person was ever exposed to hepatitis C virus (HCV)
• If positive, the person has been infected in the past
• If positive, a HCV RNA test is needed to check for current infection

HCV RNA Test (Viral Load or PCR)
• Tests the level of HCV currently in the blood
• If HCV is detectable, the person is currently infected

Genotype Test
• Knowing the HCV genotype(s) of the infected person helps to identify the best direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) to prescribe

Screening1,2

Screen all people with HIV for HCV antibody at initial intake or if pregnant
• If positive, screen for HCV RNA
For people with HIV with known positive prior HCV antibody test, screen for HCV RNA if:
• Possible recent infection (e.g., elevated ALT of unknown origin)
• CD4 count <100 cells/mm³
• Previously HCV infected and/or treated
For people with HIV with known negative HCV antibody test, repeat test annually if:
• Injection and/or intranasal drug use
• History of incarceration
• A man having sex with men
• Exposure to others’ blood

Treatment1,2
• HCV treatment is safe, easy, and effective oral medications for 8-12 weeks, with few side effects
• HCV treatment regimens are available for all HCV genotypes and people on all HIV ART regimens
• HCV treatment should be offered to all co-infected people with HIV regardless of active drug use and/or non-suppressed HIV viral load
• If treatment is delayed, liver disease progression should be monitored
• People with evidence of active HBV infection (HBsAg) should be further evaluated and treated with ART that includes agents with anti-HIV and HBV activities

* This resource was adapted from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Project SUCCEED.
2 AASLD-IDSA. Patients with HIV/HCV Coinfection. Recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. https://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/hiv-hcv. Assessed May 7, 2018

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