



# Hepatitis C Screening & Treatment

## Recommendations for People Living with HIV (PLWH)\*



### 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



### Screening<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Screen all PLWH for HCV antibody at initial intake or if pregnant

- If positive, screen for HCV RNA

#### For PLWH 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/mm<sup>3</sup>
- Previously HCV infected and/or treated

#### For PLWH 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



### Treatment<sup>1,2</sup>

- 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 persons on all HIV ART regimens
- HCV treatment should be offered to all co-infected PLWH regardless of active drug use and/or non-suppressed HIV viral load
- If treatment is delayed, liver disease progression should be monitored
- Persons with evidence of active HBV infection (HBsAg) should be further evaluated and treated with ART that includes agents with anti-HIV and HBV activities