



STATE OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS
1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

GLENN S. GOORD
Commissioner

LESTER N. WRIGHT, M.D. MPH
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Facility Health Services Directors

FROM: Lester N. Wright, M.D., MPH, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Medical Officer 

DATE: October 13, 2005

SUBJECT: Hepatitis C Primary Care Guideline

Please note the following two revisions in the Hepatitis C Primary Care Guideline:

The first is directed toward ensuring that programmatic needs for alcohol and substance abuse treatment do not interfere with medical requirement for treatment when it is indicated. This revision follows analysis of several judgments which involved varying degrees of support for and opposition to the previous guideline.

The second revision reflects the upcoming participation of Designated AIDS Treatment Centers in the "Continuity Program" as well as the excellent participation we have had from NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation clinics.

The following revisions replace the previous paragraphs:

CRITERIA FOR TREATMENT:

11. No evidence of active substance abuse (alcohol, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine) during the past 6 months. Inmates with active substance use will be required to submit drug test samples routinely at least monthly (at random intervals) until they have been free of identified substance use for 6 months. The demonstrable 6 month period of abstinence is deemed to commence on the day following the last incident of substance use.

If you have an inmate/patient who might otherwise qualify for Hepatitis C treatment except for a drug or alcohol-related incident in the past 6 months, please submit the Approval for Treatment form as you would for anyone without such incident. The details of the incident and the urgency of treatment will be evaluated individually to determine whether or not the incident results in temporary disqualification for treatment.

Those who have a substance abuse history are strongly encouraged to complete an ASAT/RSAT program since dealing with alcohol or substance use issues is an essential part of their Hepatitis C/liver treatment and protection program.

13. If an inmate/patient does not have anticipated incarceration adequate to complete evaluation and treatment, the patient can be begun on treatment and followed after release through the "Continuity Program." The inmate/patient must agree to the conditions of the "Continuity Program."

Please see that all of your medical staff receive a copy of this document and review it promptly.

LNW/lb

cc: Regional Medical Directors
Regional Health Services Administrators
Deputy Superintendents for Health
Director of Central Pharmacy
Director of Dental Services
Senior Utilization Review Nurses
Infection Control Nurses