



## Complete Summary

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### TITLE

Hepatitis C: percent of patients screened for high risk factors for hepatitis C (mental health cohort).

### SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the percentage of mental health patients screened for high risk factors for hepatitis C.

### RATIONALE

Hepatitis C is a major public health problem. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates nearly 4 million Americans are infected. Many people are unaware they have been exposed. From a patient and public health perspective, all patients should be screened for high risk factors. If patients are at high risk for being exposed to Hepatitis C, then they should be tested and evaluated for possible drug therapy. Regardless of whether they elect to initiate drug therapy or are candidates for current treatments, they need to receive information about disease transmission, the benefits of avoiding hepatotoxins such as alcohol, and the current recommendations regarding vaccination against other types of viral hepatitis.

In addition to the benefit to individual patients, there is a collective concern among many Veterans Health Administration (VHA) stakeholders that hepatitis C is more prevalent among veterans than would be expected based on prevalence in the larger population. There is some data to support this concern, but final answers are not yet available. In the absence of firm evidence, which may take years to generate, prudent decisions must be made on best judgment and similar experience in analogous situations e.g., early human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) findings in the 1980's. VHA stakeholders, including veterans groups as well as Congressional committees have strongly endorsed the approach of universal screening with testing of those who have identified risk factors.

### PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Hepatitis C infection; screening for high-risk factors

#### DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of randomly selected individuals who have a qualifying event with a Mental Health diagnosis and are seen at least once in any clinic for any diagnosis during a 12 month period. Patients who have a life expectancy that does not lend itself to prevention screening are excluded.

#### NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of patients from the denominator screened for hepatitis C risk factors

### Evidence Supporting the Measure

#### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

#### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

#### EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

### Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

#### NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

### State of Use of the Measure

#### STATE OF USE

Current routine use

#### CURRENT USE

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration  
Internal quality improvement

### Application of Measure in its Current Use

#### CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care

#### PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Unspecified

#### LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

#### TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

#### TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

#### STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

From the eligible universe, three groups will be selected, a) random mental health diagnosis, b) substance abuse diagnosis (excluding tobacco abuse), and c) post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnosis.

### Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

#### INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates nearly 4 million Americans are infected with hepatitis C.

#### EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Hepatitis C testing and prevention counseling guidelines for VA health care practitioners. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs; 2001 Jun 12. 25 p.

#### ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

There is a collective concern among many Veterans Health Administration (VHA) stakeholders that hepatitis C is more prevalent among veterans than would be expected based on prevalence in the larger population. There is some data to support this concern, but final answers are not yet available.

#### EVIDENCE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Hepatitis C testing and prevention counseling guidelines for VA health care practitioners. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs; 2001 Jun 12. 25 p.

## BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

## UTILIZATION

Unspecified

## COSTS

Unspecified

## Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

### IOM CARE NEED

Staying Healthy

### IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

## Data Collection for the Measure

### CASE FINDING

Users of care only

### DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients not already reviewed during the 12-month period who visited any clinic and had a qualifying event with a Mental Health diagnosis (see "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

### DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Encounter

### DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

#### Inclusions

- Have a qualifying event with a mental health diagnosis.\* A qualifying event could be either:
  - A mental health diagnosis on at least two separate outpatient clinic visits, or
  - One inpatient admission (with a primary or secondary mental health diagnosis) anywhere within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) within the six months prior to the study interval review period

AND

- Seen at the facility in any clinic for any diagnosis during the review period

\*See the original measure documentation for a list of mental health diagnosis International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes used in sample selection.

#### Exclusions

Any of the following exclude the patient from screening for this prevention measure:

- Documented diagnosis of cancer of the esophagus, liver, or pancreas
- Enrolled in a Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) or community-based Hospice program
- Documented in the Medical Record a life expectancy less than 6 months

#### NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

##### Inclusions

Screened: Documentation in the Medical Record indicating a systematic review of the patient's risk for hepatitis C as referenced in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 2001-009, February 27, 2001, National Hepatitis Program.

##### Hepatitis C Risk Factors:

- Transfusion of blood or blood products prior to 1992 (any, include tissue transplant)
- Injection illicit drug use, any injections, skin or intravenous (IV)
- Unequivocal blood exposure on or through skin or mucous membrane, medical worker, combat casualty care, needle stick injury
- Multiple sexual partners, past or present (greater than 10 in lifetime)
- Hemodialysis, ever
- Tattoo or repeated body piercing
- Intranasal cocaine use, past or present
- Unexplained abnormal alanine aminotransferase (ALT) value
- Clinician documentation of unexplained liver disease
- Intemperate alcohol use (greater than 50 g of alcohol per day for 10 or more years [roughly 10-14 g of alcohol in one beer])

##### Exclusions

Unspecified

#### DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

#### NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

## DATA SOURCE

Medical record

## LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

## PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

## Computation of the Measure

## SCORING

Rate

## INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

## ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

## STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison  
Prescriptive standard

## PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

Fiscal year (FY) 2002 target for hepatitis C screening component:

- Fully successful: 60%
- Exceptional: 73%

## EVIDENCE FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

## EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

## Identifying Information

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Hepatitis C-screening (mental health).

### MEASURE COLLECTION

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2002: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

### MEASURE SET NAME

[Preventive Care](#)

### DEVELOPER

Veterans Health Administration

### ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

### RELEASE DATE

2001 Nov

### REVISION DATE

2002 Mar

### MEASURE STATUS

Please note: This measure has been updated. The National Quality Measures Clearinghouse is working to update this summary.

### SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

### MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Hepatitis C-Screening (Mental Health)," is published in "FY 2002 VHA Performance Measurement System: Technical Manual."

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#### NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on September 27, 2002. The information was verified by the Veterans Health Administration on October 29, 2002.

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Date Modified: 10/25/2004

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