



MAINE

1. Plan Development

Maine has not yet published a viral hepatitis elimination plan. The state is expected to publish a plan by 2025 in accordance with CDC PS21-2103. If Maine has not already begun to do so, the state should convene a group of multi-disciplinary stakeholders to guide these efforts, which will ultimately improve its viral hepatitis strategies and outcomes.

2. Harm Reduction Laws

Syringe Services Program Legality, Syringe Exchange Specifications, Medical Emergency Laws, and “Works” Possession Laws and Syringe Exemption

SSPs are authorized by law, they function on a needs-based policy, and there is an exemption in place for syringes acquired from SSPs. Needs-based SSP policies broaden the efficacy of these programs to reduce transmission of hepatitis, HIV, and other diseases.

3. Budget Allocation

Specific Funds Allocated for Plan Implementation, State Budget, and State Corrections Budget

Viral hepatitis is no longer mentioned in the state’s general budget; it was previously included in the “Maine Annual Report 2021.” Continuing to include a budget line item for hepatitis services and treatment would signal a commitment to providing resources to support ongoing efforts to improve statewide viral hepatitis outcomes.

4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

Educational and Perinatal Information for the Public, Provider Training, and Medicaid Expansion

Maine is a Medicaid expansion state and does distribute viral hepatitis educational information and materials geared towards the public; since July 2022, it now also provides perinatal information / education for HCV, which is a welcome addition to the materials the state offers. Maine Health now also leads a Project Echo program to help train professionals in this space as well as reach underserved communities.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

A publicly available, separate, state-drafted guidance for the standard of care for HCV in state corrections that includes strategies to offer DAA treatment for HCV to all persons with a confirmed HCV diagnosis held in state corrections in accordance with the AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines does not exist in Maine. There has been litigation within the jurisdiction though that has prompted changes to be made regarding hepatitis screening and treatment within correctional facilities. A 2021 settlement in Maine resulted in universal opt-out testing at intake and near-universal eligibility for treatment. The state provided DAA treatment to 205 people in Maine Department of Corrections custody in 2021.

Targeted Interventions for Key Populations and the Provision of Linguistically Diverse Informational Materials

The Peabody Center is a non-governmental / community organization that provides targeted interventions available for key populations across Maine.

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

We are not aware of an enduring Coalition or task force in existence that includes state agencies, community organizations, and advocacy groups to coordinate activities and leverage resources. If it has not already begun to do so, Maine should convene stakeholders across various disciplines to form a Coalition that can help build partnership, identify needs, leverage available resources, and further implement targeted interventions.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Maine's Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade has decreased from a B to a C, as the state still requires prior authorization for all HCV treatment regimens and has retreatment restrictions and other restrictions still in place, including time-based lab requirements, submission of documentation of genotype, and a 14-day dispensing limitation for first fills.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

Epidemiological Report / Profile, and Public-Facing Website with Viral Hepatitis Data

Maine previously published epidemiological reports that included HAV, HBV, and HCV surveillance data and published this data on a public-facing website. To our knowledge, the most recent data for Maine published on a public-facing website is HAV data from 2021. The most recent surveillance reports for HBV and HCV data are from 2019 and are now out-of-date. To improve transparency, the state should consistently publish epidemiological data for HAV, HBV, and HCV.