



# WASHINGTON

## 1. Plan Development

Washington was one of the first states to publish a hepatitis elimination plan, called Hepatitis C Free Washington; it was published in 2019. People with lived/living experience were included in the development process of the hepatitis elimination plan. It has committed to, and does, publish progress reports pertaining to the plan; it appears they are published quarterly.

## 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 in the state, they function on a needs-based model, and an exemption does exist for the possession of syringes obtained from SSPs.

## 3. Budget Allocation

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

Viral hepatitis and the elimination of viral hepatitis is mentioned in the FY21-23 budget for the state of Washington, but there is no mention in the corrections budget. Including a designated line item for hepatitis in both locations 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**

Washington is a Medicaid expansion state. The state does provide educational information to the public regarding viral hepatitis, as well as information pertaining to perinatal HBV. No information for perinatal HCV is offered though. Washington’s Department of Health website lists a number of resources, several being training resources for providers (e.g., Hepatitis C Clinician Consultation Center and the National Training Center for Integrated Hepatitis HIV/STD Prevention Services).

### **Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections**

The state’s elimination plan includes strategies / guidance 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.

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

The state partners with Abbvie and community-based organizations, such as the Hepatitis Education Project, to conduct outreach, screening, care coordination, and linkage to care events throughout the state. Ongoing efforts should be coordinated to include strategies to prevent, screen, and treat HAV and HBV.

### **Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources**

In response to Governor Jay Inslee's Directive 18-13, a first-in-nation approach that focuses on hepatitis C elimination through combined public health efforts and a new medication purchasing approach, the Washington State Department of Health brought together a broad range of partners to develop the Hepatitis C Free Washington Initiative. It is not apparent that people with lived / living experience are members of the Hepatitis C Free Washington Initiative though.

### **Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade**

Washington continues to maintain its A+ Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade.

## **5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage**

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

In January 2023, Washington published its 2021 Communicable Disease Report, and it includes data for HAV, HBV, and HCV. This is a great update, and the state should continue to publish such reports as data becomes available.