Information on Viral Hepatitis

*In the US, about 4.4 million people have viral hepatitis, but many people are unaware of it. Ethnic minorities experience higher mortality rates than whites. For example, in black adults ages 45-64, hepatitis C is the leading cause of death.*

Facts

- Hepatitis, which literally means liver inflammation, is an infectious disease that can cause severe liver damage.

- Two forms of hepatitis include acute and chronic. Chronic hepatitis can lead to liver cancer and liver disease.


- Although hepatitis has 5 strains, A, B, and C are the strains usually found in the US.

- Hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more easily transmitted than HIV.

- Hepatitis C and HIV infection commonly occur together (coinfection) among injection drug users (IDU).

- Adults born between 1945-1965 have an increased risk of becoming infected with Hepatitis C.

- Over 50% of Americans with hepatitis B are Asian/Pacific Islander.

Source: Centers for Disease Control
Medicare provides coverage for screenings and other health services for hepatitis B, as well as screenings for HIV and STDS, and alcohol misuse.

States may provide coverage for hepatitis B and C vaccinations.

For more information on Medicare and Medicaid coverage for heart-related diseases, visit medicaid.gov or medicare.gov.

Figures

**Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 population by Male Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2009**

![Bar chart showing viral hepatitis death rates per 100,000 population by male gender and race/ethnicity, 2009.](chart1)


**Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 population by Female Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2009**

![Bar chart showing viral hepatitis death rates per 100,000 population by female gender and race/ethnicity, 2009.](chart2)
Age-Adjusted Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 Population, 2009

Patients Diagnosed with Hepatitis B or C at Health Center Programs, 2010 and 2011***


Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2012