PRESCRIBER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Louisiana Department of Health is committed to eliminating HCV in our state. To accomplish this goal, we need your help! To improve access to patients state-wide, we have removed restrictions surrounding who can prescribe HCV medications and are training more primary care providers to cure Hepatitis C in persons living with the disease. Our free trainings are for all prescribers (MDs, DOs, NPs, PAs) and clinical staff who would like to be a part of our elimination efforts.

The Louisiana Department of Health’s (LDH) Office of Public Health (OPH) and the Louisiana Department of Corrections (DOC) has launched a comprehensive, evidence-based, and action-oriented plan to achieve the elimination of hepatitis C virus (HCV) as a public health threat in Louisiana by the end of 2024. The plan is composed of seven strategies leveraging mutually reinforcing efforts across public health, health care, industry, and community partners throughout the state working towards the common goal of state-wide elimination of hepatitis C infection, defined by the World Health Organization as diagnosing 90% and treating 80% of Louisiana residents. Our vision is a “Hep C Free Louisiana” where Hepatitis C is no longer a threat to public health, the quality of life for our citizens is improved, and health inequities related to hepatitis C are eliminated. This vision is only possible with the expansion of our provider network through the effort and collaboration of individuals, agencies, organizations, and health systems at all levels in each of Louisiana’s 64 parishes.

**To learn more, go to:** <https://louisianahealthhub.org/hepatitis-c-for-providers/>

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S EVENTBRITE PAGE

**Visit our online Eventbrite page for the most up-to-date listing of our upcoming events at:** [**LDH.Eventbrite.com**](http://ldh.eventbrite.com/)**. All of our sessions are free to join and offer CME at no cost to you.**

If you are a prescriber and are interested in additional trainings to add screening, linkage to care, and/or treatment for Hepatitis C to your clinical services or expanding your current services, **reach out to Dr. Frederic McCall via email,****Frederic.McCall@LA.gov****, or via cell phone: (919) 920-6707** to schedule trainings. If you are interested in custom training opportunities for yourself or your colleagues, please reach out to our team with your specific training needs.

ONE-HOUR HCV TREATMENT PRESCRIBER TRAINING

Our first step in training consists of a single, one-hour HCV Provider Training to prepare prescribers to identify and treat people living with HCV. These trainings provide a background on the Hepatitis C epidemic facing our community, an introduction to the Hep C Free Louisiana plan, and a walk-through of the streamlined screening and treatment algorithm so all prescribers can feel confident providing the cure for Hepatitis C to their clients. HCV Prescriber Training is available to any medical provider in the state of Louisiana and can be scheduled with our academic detailing team at your convenience. The training is ideal for one-on-one or small groups to directly address individual questions or concerns from prescribers.

HEPATITIS, ADDICTION, AND HARM REDUCTION IN MEDICINE (HARM.) PROJECT ECHO SERIES

The ongoing opioid epidemic in America fuels the hepatitis epidemic ravaging our country. HCV elimination efforts are unlikely to succeed without co-addressing substance use. We launched the HARM project Echo series to help Louisiana address the HCV and Opioid syndemic. This monthly lunch and learn series focuses on destigmatizing drug use while integrating Harm Reduction services in medical care. Join us on the third Wednesday of the month, at 12-noon central time. Sign up at: <https://ldhharm.eventbrite.com>

HCV PROJECT ECHO SERIES

These lunch and learn sessions will be a short 15-minute didactic lesson followed by clinical case discussions. The majority of the time is really for YOU! Please come with cases you would like to discuss and any questions we can answer for you. Anyone can join the Project Echo meeting, but remember, if you want to be an HCV Champion, you MUST attend one of the HCV Champions half-day trainings, attend 8 of these Project Echo sessions (presenting at least 5 cases) and complete a culminating exam. Then you are awarded a certificate acknowledging your hard work to become a proficient HCV provider. Sign up at: <https://hcvecho.eventbrite.com>

HCV CHAMPIONS TRAINING

For those that would like to become more experienced providers, we have a more intensive class called HCV Champions Training. This provides a more in-depth analysis of more complicated HCV care and consists of a half-day didactic, followed by weekly online case review sessions (typically at lunch) to improve provider comfort in treating more advanced cases. These trainings will be held throughout the state in the coming months and allow for a deeper dive into the principles behind the state’s streamlined HCV treatment algorithm. Sign up at: <https://ldhhcvchamp.eventbrite.com>

HCV CHAMPION RECOGNITION

For those that would like to be recognized as an HCV Champion Prescriber in Louisiana, we offer a combined course of study and collaboration with prescribers throughout the state through a combined HCV Champion Training and the 12-week HCV Project Echo Series. To be recognized as an HCV Champion Prescriber in Louisiana, attend an HCV Champion Training, at least 8 out of 12 HCV Project Echo Series, present at least five clinical cases for discussion, and pass a culminating examination to demonstrate mastery of HCV screening and treatment topics. Upon successful completion of the program, prescribers will be recognized by the Louisiana Department of Health as a Champion Prescriber in the State’s HCV Elimination efforts.