

Florida Hepatitis Program

Health Care Practitioner Reporting Guidelines

What Practitioners Need to Know



Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, and G

ALL institutions providing health services are required to notify the Department of Health of hepatitis diagnoses as listed in the *Table of Reportable Diseases or Conditions to Be Reported*, Rule 64D-3.029, Florida Administrative Code.

Who to Notify

Notification of a reportable disease or condition should be made directly to the county health department in the county where the patient resides.

When to Notify

Hepatitis A should be reported immediately and hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G must be reported by the next business day.

What Health Care Practitioners are Required To Submit Department

Laboratories and practitioners have different reporting requirements. Information contained in practitioner reports supplements data provided by laboratories by providing additional information on symptoms, pregnancy status, treatment, occupation, and illness in family members. Information that practitioners are required to submit to the Department can be found on the Department's main site at [Floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/](https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/).



Laboratory notification does not nullify the practitioner notification requirements.

Time Frame for Reporting Hepatitis

1 Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is listed as **immediately**. Immediately should occur following confirmatory testing or diagnosis.

2 Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G

Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G is listed as **next business day**.

Pregnancy and Prenatal Care

Rule 64D-3.042, Florida Administrative Code, requires practitioners attending a woman for prenatal care to test the woman for chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis at initial examination and then again at 28 to 32 weeks gestation. Practitioners attending a woman at delivery or within 30 days postpartum with no record of prenatal care or prenatal care with no testing must test the woman for hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends hepatitis C screening for all pregnant women during each pregnancy.

Hepatitis Screening:

Hepatitis screening will help identify undiagnosed persons so they can make life style changes, avoid transmitting the viruses to others and protect their lives and seek curative treatment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Health care practitioners can reach out to their local county health department (CHD) epidemiology contact, or view a listing by [county \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov) for contact information for providers to report diseases and conditions.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is an acute infection only. Incubation period for hepatitis A is an average 28 days, with a range of 15 to 50 days. More people with hepatitis A have jaundice, pain and other symptoms. Infected children generally have no symptoms, while adults can get very ill.

The risk factors for hepatitis A transmission include:

- Fecal-oral transmission
- Having close contact to someone who has hepatitis A
- Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common
- Eating contaminated food
- Drinking contaminated water
- Men who have sexual contact with men
- Poor hygiene and sanitation behaviors
- People using drugs, both injection and non-injection drugs

Provider-client conversation:

- Encourage your client to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B
- Discuss risk factors and disease transmission modes
- Encourage the use of safer sexual practices, proper hygiene and hand-washing habits

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B can be either an acute or chronic infection. A small portion of people will show symptoms of acute hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B virus is transmitted through blood and body fluids.

The following people are at increased risk for hepatitis B:

- All pregnant women
- People who use street drugs
- Sexually active persons with multiple sex partners
- Household and sexual contacts of people with hepatitis B
- People with hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS or other chronic diseases

Provider-client conversation:

- Encourage your client to get vaccinated for hepatitis B
- Avoid having unprotected sex
- Avoid alcohol consumption
- Do not share needles or other objects that may have blood on them

Hepatitis B and Pregnancy

All pregnant women should be screened for HBsAG in their first trimester.

All babies are routinely vaccinated. If the mother is HBV-positive, the baby is vaccinated and receives hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG).

Note: HBV is not spread by breast-feeding.

Hepatitis C

The following people are at increased risk for hepatitis C:

- People who use injection drugs or did so in the past
- Children born to mothers who have hepatitis C
- Occupational needle-stick injury
- Organ donor recipient prior to July 1992
- Received a blood transfusion prior to July 1992
- People with HIV infection

Hepatitis C symptoms include:

- Jaundice
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite

Hepatitis C Treatment is Available

Hepatitis C treatment is widely available. Primary care physicians can now treat for hepatitis C. Encourage patients to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B. Patients may be linked to the following for care:

- Compassionate care treatment programs
- Select Federally Qualified Health Centers or free clinics
- Go to flahepatitis.org to review the Hepatitis Treatment Map to learn more about county-specific hepatitis treatment options
- Veteran services
- Medicaid

Hepatitis C and Pregnancy

Hepatitis C can be transmitted from mother to infant during delivery, although this is rare. Post-exposure prophylaxis is not available for infants. Counsel women on harm reduction services and safe injection practices if there is a history of injection drug use. Hepatitis C in pregnancy can cause a number of complications including cholestasis of pregnancy (ICP), a severe itching that can result in fetal death if not controlled, premature birth and other adverse health outcomes.

Mother and infant should be linked to care to get antiviral care for mother and at 18 months it is recommended that the infant receive an HCV antibody test and if that test is positive, then conduct a HCV RNA test.



Learn more at [FloridaHealth.gov/Diseases-and-conditions](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Diseases-and-conditions)

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