BACKGROUND

Over 11,000 cases of hepatitis C (hep C or HCV) were newly reported to the New York City (NYC) Health Department in 2016. In the United States, there were more HCV-related deaths than deaths from 60 other infectious diseases, including HIV, pneumococcal diseases and tuberculosis. However, direct acting antivirals (DAAs) can cure most individuals of HCV.

The Viral Hepatitis Program’s NYC HCV Hospital Dashboard provides information about diagnosis in NYC hospitals with at least 350 patients with positive HCV antibody tests.

The dashboard’s goal is to improve rates of confirmatory testing and treatment initiation for HCV among high-volume testing hospitals. It will be released twice a year; the first release will show confirmatory rates and the second release will include treatment initiation rates. It will also provide facility-specific data on hepatitis C testing among hospitals participating in the Hep C Clinical Exchange Network (HepCX), a hospital peer-to-peer learning collaborative managed by the Health Department. The Viral Hepatitis Program uses the HCV registry within the Bureau of Communicable Disease’s surveillance system to produce data for the dashboard.

TESTING FOR HCV

Testing for HCV is a two-step process. First, an antibody test is conducted to determine if the person has ever been exposed to HCV. If the antibody test result is positive, a second laboratory RNA test is necessary to confirm that the person is currently infected.

For more information about HCV laboratory testing, click here

On September 12, 2017, the NYC Board of Health amended Health Code §13.03(b)(3) to require all laboratories to automatically perform a confirmatory HCV RNA test (reflex test) when there is a positive antibody test. The confirmatory RNA test must be performed on a specimen collected at the same time as the initial specimen. The confirmatory RNA test must be initiated—or the specimen must be sent to another laboratory to be tested—within 72 hours of obtaining the positive antibody test result.

HCV* CONFIRMATION RATE

The first step towards diagnosis and linkage to care is confirming current infection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Name</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montefiore Medical Center</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYU Langone Medical Center</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Sinai Beth Israel</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Hospital Center</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Sinai Hospital</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Hospital</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYP - Columbia University Medical Center</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYP - Weill Cornell</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coney Island Hospital</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island University Hospital - North</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobi Medical Center</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Barnabas Hospital</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings County Hospital Center</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Methodist Hospital</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island University Hospital - South</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The graph shows the percent of patients with a reportable EIA** in 2016 who received an RNA confirmatory test within three months of their positive antibody test.

85% Goal 90 100
KEY

- Hospital has automatic confirmatory RNA test or “HCV reflex testing”
- Hospital has patient return for a second confirmatory test

* RNA
** Enzyme Immunoassay

During HCV reflex testing, the laboratory automatically performs a HCV RNA test on the same specimen, or a second specimen collected at the same time, if the HCV antibody test is reactive (positive).

Interfaith Hospital and Brooklyn Hospital Center also had a high volume of patients (≥350 patients) with a positive antibody test in 2016. They will be added to this chart when analysis of their records is finalized.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Among NYC hospitals with a high volume of patients who screen antibody positive for HCV, the average confirmatory RNA rate is 65.8%.
- These facilities had between 350 and 1395 patients with positive HCV antibody results in 2016. Hospitals that implemented HCV reflex testing showed higher confirmatory RNA rates.

For more information about the dashboard, email hcvdashboard@health.nyc.gov.

Key Facts about the Health Department’s Hepatitis C Registry

- High volume of HCV reports: ~ 200,000 reportable labs from over 60,000 patient encounters each year
- Mandatory reportable labs in NYC include:
  o Positive antibody tests
  o Positive and negative RNA tests
  o Genotype tests
- Advantages
  o Timely electronic reporting by all labs
  o Can use patterns of RNA test results to estimate linkage to care and treatment
- Limitations
  o Facility and provider data are not standardized
  o Positive antibody rapid tests are not reportable
600 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

572 (95.3%) patients received an RNA test within three months
NYU Langone Medical Center

418 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

398 (95.2%) patients received an RNA test within three months

Mount Sinai Hospital

786 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

702 (89.3%) patients received an RNA test within three months
NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan Hospital Center

578 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

494 (85.5%) patients received an RNA test within three months

New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

705 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

582 (82.6%) patients received an RNA test within three months
New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center

1,030 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

- 810 (78.6%) patients received an RNA test within three months

Coney Island Hospital

350 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

- 233 (66.6%) patients received an RNA test within three months
Staten Island University Hospital - North

534 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

226 (42.3%) patients received an RNA test within three months

Jacobi Medical Center

456 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

191 (41.9%) patients received an RNA test within three months
St. Barnabas Hospital

659 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

273 (41.4%) patients received an RNA test within three months

Kings County Hospital Center

372 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

138 (37.1%) patients received an RNA test within three months
New York Methodist Hospital

474 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016

173 (36.5%) patients received an RNA test within three months

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center

987 patients with a positive antibody test in 2016 in 2016

285 (29%) patients received an RNA test within three months