



Hepatitis C elimination:

What primary care providers need to know

The *Ontario Hepatitis C Elimination Roadmap* is charting the path to eliminate hepatitis C.

More than 110,000 Ontarians are living with hepatitis C, a leading cause of death and chronic illness from an infectious disease. However, with widespread testing, an effective cure and proven prevention strategies, eliminating hepatitis C is within reach. The *Roadmap* outlines strategies to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health threat in Ontario by 2030, including the role of primary care providers and other community clinicians in expanding access to care.

Read the full *Ontario Hepatitis C Elimination Roadmap* at on.endhepc.ca.

Primary care is key to expanding access to hepatitis C testing and treatment.

Over 90% of hepatitis C cases treated in Ontario are overseen by a specialist, creating barriers and long wait times. Modern hepatitis C treatments are simple and highly effective. High-quality care can be delivered by primary care providers with adequate training and support.

Primary care providers can deliver hepatitis C testing and treatment in new care settings such as community health centres, sexual health clinics, addiction services and more. This means people can access care from their trusted providers in familiar settings, which may be particularly important for those living in smaller or rural communities and for marginalized people with inequitable access to health care.

Existing community providers can better reach hepatitis C priority populations, including people who use drugs; First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; people with experience in prisons; immigrants and newcomers; and

gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM). Hepatitis C care can be delivered by clinicians working in harm reduction, Indigenous healthcare organizations, prisons, immigrant and newcomer health programs, and health services for gbMSM, including HIV or sexual health clinics.

Expanding hepatitis C training and clinical supports will help primary care providers to begin delivering care. This includes linking providers to existing training programs, creating mechanisms for clinical consults and centralizing these and other resources on a website for service providers. Training should integrate anti-stigma practices, cultural safety and trauma-informed care.

Professional associations and other healthcare organizations can support hepatitis C elimination by promoting hepatitis C training among membership or staff and publicly endorsing hepatitis C elimination as a priority for their organization.