New Perinatal Hepatitis C Effort in Pierce County

Direct-acting antiviral treatment has dramatically improved care for hepatitis C (HCV). The cure rate is now above 90%. The treatment is recommended for almost everyone. **Two of the few exceptions are pregnant women and children under age 3.** Our Perinatal HCV Program encourages the HCV treatment of young women before their next pregnancy. Fewer women with HCV means fewer babies with HCV.

**Prenatal**

HCV vertical transmission risk is about 5%.

- Universal HCV screening for pregnant women is recommended by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (ISDA).
- Report any positive HCV results on the Perinatal Hepatitis C Fax Form—[www.tpchd.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=4736](http://www.tpchd.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=4736)—even if the patient had a previous positive result. Include the patient’s pregnancy status and estimated date of delivery in the Comments section.

**Newborn and Pediatric**

Our Perinatal HCV Program works to ensure exposed babies receive appropriate, timely testing.

- Babies born to a mother with viremic HCV should be tested for HCV.
- Guidelines on when to test vary depending on the type of test used.
- **We recommend HCV RNA testing when the baby is between 2 and 6 months of age.**
- For women with HCV, breastfeeding is only contraindicated if nipples are cracked, damaged or bleeding.

**Resources**

Many HVC resources are available on our website or online.

- Frequently asked questions, infographic and more—[www.tpchd.org/hepc](http://www.tpchd.org/hepc).
- Continuing education—[www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/go/treatment-infection/monitoring/core-concept/all](http://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/go/treatment-infection/monitoring/core-concept/all).