Affordable Care Act and Viral Hepatitis Preventive Services
Successes, Challenges, Opportunities
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Why is the ACA Important?

- Expands access to care through Medicaid expansion, private insurance, financial assistance
- Strengthens community health centers
- Ends discrimination against pre-existing conditions
- Expands coverage of preventive services with no co-pays
- Public Health and Prevention Fund
- Prioritizes reduction of health disparities
ACA Implementation: Viral Hepatitis Preventive Services

- Expanded coverage of hepatitis B vaccination
- Updated USPSTF hepatitis B screening recommendations
- Expanded coverage of hepatitis B screening
- Updated USPSTF hepatitis C screening recommendations
- Expanded coverage of hepatitis C screening
- $10 million increase for viral hepatitis services through Prevention and Public Health Fund/now incorporated into yearly funding
ACA Implementation: Hepatitis B Immunization

- Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices:
  - Universal vaccination of infants
  - Vaccination of children/adolescents not previously vaccinated
  - Pregnant women identified as being at risk for hepatitis B infection during pregnancy
  - Unvaccinated adults at risk for hepatitis B infection
  - Adults requesting protection from hepatitis B infection

- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs

- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs
ACA Implementation: Hepatitis B Screening

- Pregnant women (USPSTF “A” grade, 2009)
- At risk populations (USPSTF “B” grade, 2014)
- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs
- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs
- Pending: Medicare coverage
ACA Implementation: Hepatitis C Screening

- One-time testing for all born 1945 – 1965 (USPSTF “B” grade, 2013)
- Persons at high risk (USPSTF “B” grade, 2013)
- Covered with no co-pay by most private insurance plans and expanded Medicaid programs
- Optional coverage by traditional Medicaid programs
- Covered with no co-pay by Medicare (must be ordered by primary care provider)
ACA Implementation:
Prevention and Public Health Fund

• Provides expanded and sustained national investments in prevention and public health, to improve health outcomes, and to enhance health care quality

• Secured $10 million in Fiscal Year 2012/2013 for viral hepatitis

• Funding is now integrated into “base funding”

• Has significantly increased hepatitis B and C testing/linkage to care services
ACA Implementation: Advocacy Priorities

• Medicare coverage of hepatitis B screening
• Medicare coverage of hepatitis C screening outside primary care
• Medicaid coverage (traditional programs) of hepatitis B and C screening
• Preventive services for uninsured
• Adequate federal funding