Expanding HCV Treatment in Alaska

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“What has changed about Hep C that makes you want to do this now?”
We are entering the eye of an economic storm when it comes to the cost of treating hepatitis C
Hep C Average Cost per Patient in Alaska DOC

Source: State of Alaska Department of Corrections 2019
Estimated Alaska DOC HCV costs for broadly expanding treatment in FY 2014-2021
Exhibit 2

The number of people transmitting HCV is increasing
Estimated Total New HCV Infections

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Division of Viral Hepatitis. Statistics and Surveillance.
Estimated Number of New Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Infections in the United States, by Year. Data are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are adjusted for the expected number of people with acute hepatitis B virus and HCV infections who become symptomatic, seek medical care, and are reported to state or local public health surveillance.

Hepatitis C and opioid injections are rising fast among white Americans

Note: Non-Hispanic
SOURCE: CDC and SAMHSA
Globally, HCV incidence among general prison detainees is 1.4 per 100 person-years, and 16.4 per 100 person-years among detainees with a history of IVDU.

Prevalence of HCV in Alaska’s Prisons and Jails

- US Population
- General Prison Population: 22%
- Prison IVDU: 45%
The incidence of HCV is lower in prison than the community, but the transmission risk is over 2 fold higher among recently released persons who inject drugs.

Hepatitis C Virus in Alaska

- On any day, 25% of newly diagnosed HCV patients in Alaska are sitting in one of Alaska’s jails or prisons.

- Approx. 75% of Alaska’s inmates will return to the community within three years; eventually 95% return to the community.
Exhibit 3

Chronic HCV is a silent assassin
Annual number of hepatitis C-related deaths vs. other nationally notifiable infectious conditions in the US, 2003-2013

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Prevalence of type 2 diabetes by HCV infection category

Source: Charlton Wilson. Hepatitis C Infection and Type 2 Diabetes in American-Indian Women. *Diabetes Care* Sep 2004, 27 (9) 2116-2119
HCV eradication in correctional settings curtails the medical, economic, and public health costs to the general community.
“Universal opt-out HCV screening in prisons would reduce HCV transmission and HCV-associated diseases primarily in the outside community. Investing in U.S. prisons to manage hepatitis C is a strategic approach to address the current epidemic.”
Gottfredsson, M, et al. Major Decrease in Prevalence of Hepatitis C Viremia in Key Populations following the 2nd Year of Treatment as Prevention for Hepatitis C (TraP HepC) Program in Iceland. Oct 5, 2018
Conclusion

States have inherited an important public health opportunity. Eradication of HCV, a chronic, deadly, communicable disease, is now possible, and correctional facilities provide the venue for cost-effective treatment.