May 19th – National Hepatitis Testing Day

HCV surveillance system had detected 7,205 persons living with HCV condition, which represents a prevalence of 1.65% in Washoe County. Based on local data during the past 10 year period from 2005 through 2014, the proportion of HCV cases among persons aged ≤ 30 years substantially increased from 4.7% in 2005 to 12.5% in 2014, a 166% increase (Figure 1). This finding is consistent with the national finding. Unfortunately, there was no representative data on risk factors available locally.

Whom to Test?
On April 17, 2012, CDC published new recommendations for HCV testing. Testing for HCV is now recommended for:

- All persons born during 1945–1965 regardless of risk factors.
- HIV-infected patients.
- Persons who have ever injected illegal drugs, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago and do not consider themselves as drug users.
- Persons with selected medical conditions, including

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1. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6417a1.htm?s_cid=mm6417a1_w

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http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6104a1.htm?s_cid=mm6104a1_e#Box
Please share this document with all physicians/staff in your office/facility

Healthcare providers who are not following CDC’s recommendation, now is the time to follow this guidance. The recommended testing sequence is seen in the flow chart (Figure 3). The purpose of doing this is to identify those persons with current HCV infection in order to link them to the medical care as early as possible.

Figure 3. Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

What to Test?

In May 2013, CDC published an updated guideline\(^3\) regarding HCV testing because two important implications (availability of a rapid test for HCV antibody and the discontinuation of RIBA HCV) for HCV testing since 2003 guidance was published. The bottom line is that persons with reactive results after HCV antibody testing should be evaluated for the presence of HCV RNA in their blood. Local data show that the proportion of HCV cases confirmed by HCV RNA increased to 51% in 2014 (Figure 2). For those laboratories and

\(^3\)http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6104a1.htm?s_cid=rr6104a1_e#Box