

March 28, 2018

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<Provider City> <State> <zipcode5-zipcode4>

Dear Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to notify providers about covered services offered through Michigan Medicaid that are important to address hepatitis A virus infections. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), along with local public health officials, are continuing to see an elevated number of hepatitis A cases during the current statewide outbreak.

To end the outbreak, MDHHS is requesting your partnership to identify opportunities to screen adult clients for risk factors and proactively increase vaccination among the highest risk individuals, including:

- People who use injection and non-injection drugs.
- Individuals who have been recently incarcerated.
- Men who have sex with men.
- People who are homeless or have transient housing situations.
- Individuals with chronic liver disease (including hepatitis B and C and alcoholic cirrhosis).

Since 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine hepatitis A vaccination of the following populations:

- All children at 1 year of age.
- Chronic liver disease patients (including hepatitis B and C and alcoholic cirrhosis).
- Recipients of clotting factor concentrates.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Users of injection and non-injection drugs.
- Employees who work with hepatitis A-infected primates or in a hepatitis A virus research laboratory.
- Travelers to countries with intermediate or high levels of endemic hepatitis A infection.
- Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with intermediate or high hepatitis A endemicity.

Because of the large number of cases seen in this statewide outbreak, MDHHS is asking that providers consider stocking the vaccine and screen for those individuals who are at high risk. Data has shown that more immunizations are given when recommended by a provider in the medical home. Questions regarding immunizations may be directed to the MDHHS Division of Immunization at 517-335-8159.

Covered Services

Michigan Medicaid, MIChild and the Healthy Michigan Plan cover the following services to help address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatitis A and related health conditions, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services for children under 21 years of age.

Preventive Services

Hepatitis A vaccinations (pre-exposure and post-exposure) are a covered Medicaid benefit. As always, vaccination efforts should be supplemented by health education to improve sanitation, hygiene practices, clean needle practices, and food safety. MDHHS has developed a brochure with information about the outbreak in Michigan. The brochure is available at www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak >> Hepatitis A Outbreak Resources.

Diagnostic Services

Medically necessary laboratory testing, including diagnostic testing for the hepatitis A virus, is covered.

Treatment

The following services are covered to treat individuals with active hepatitis A infection:

- Practitioner visits and services.
- Prescribed drugs.
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services.

Providers may check with the Medicaid Health Plans regarding additional services that may be covered for beneficiaries enrolled in a health plan.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable liver infection. The infection is primarily spread from person-to-person through ingestion of food, water, or oral contact with objects (including hands) contaminated by feces of a hepatitis A infected individual. Transmission occurs easily among sexual and close household contacts, and persons sharing needles and non-injection drugs. Those with a history of injection and non-injection drug use, homelessness or transient housing, men who have sex with men, and incarceration are thought to be at highest risk in this outbreak setting. Notably, this outbreak has had a hospitalization rate of over 80%.

The hepatitis A infection incubation period is long (15-50 days) and people often develop symptoms of fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, appetite loss, jaundice, dark urine, pale stools and diarrhea. Hepatitis A infection may last a few weeks to several months. Some individuals, especially if co-infected with hepatitis B or C, may develop fulminant liver failure resulting in death. Twenty-five deaths have been attributed to this outbreak thus far.

In conclusion, hepatitis A vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection. The recommendation for routine hepatitis A vaccination is a two-dose series separated by six months. MDHHS requires timely reporting of cases to local health departments (LHDs) for the provision of case investigation and possible post-exposure prophylaxis administration for exposed contacts. Post-exposure prophylaxis can prevent Hepatitis A infection in persons when it is administered within 14 days of exposure.

Additional Resources

Additional information and resources about hepatitis A infections are available at:

www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/afaq.htm

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS_Brick_Book_609755_7.pdf

We encourage you to contact either your LHD or MDHHS at 517-335-8165 to obtain updates, request support, or seek consultation during this outbreak. Contact information for LHDs is available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs >> Inside MDHHS >> County Offices >> Local Health Departments.

Additional information about Medicaid-covered services can be found in the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,



Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration