

Treating Hepatitis C Saves Lives and Money

Hepatitis C (HCV) is an infectious disease raging across the US, that can be cured in as little as eight weeks. Experts recommend treating HCV as early as possible to avoid long-term effects.¹ But the CDC estimates that four in ten people living with HCV do not know they have it.² While identifying and treating HCV comes with a cost.

The cost of not treating HCV is much greater and is borne by individuals; families; Medicaid; Medicare; and private insurance plans.

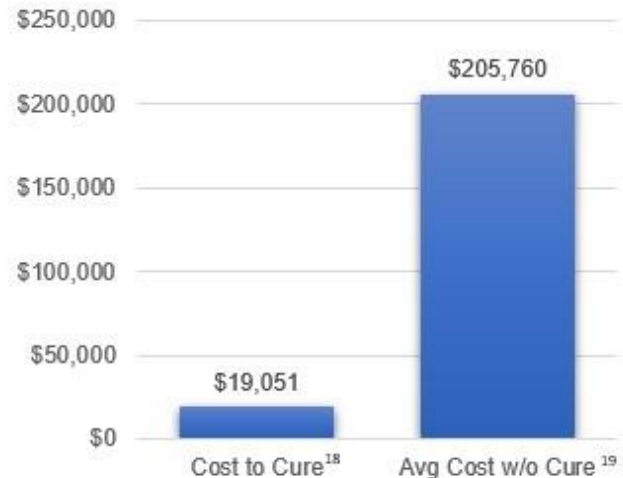
Because states and federal agencies lack funding for testing, surveillance, and treatment, too many people are not treated, leading to:

- Worse health outcomes
- Increased transmission and spread of HCV
- Additional costs to treat conditions caused by or exacerbated by long-term HCV³

Significant savings would be generated through increased investment in HCV outreach, screening, and treatment:

- Private Insurance: \$10-14 billion over 20 years⁴
- Medicare: \$4-12 billion over 20 years⁵
- Medicaid: \$3.8 billion over enrollees' lifetime⁶

Not Treating HCV is Costly



Cost to cure based on publicly available data of the price paid by Department of Defense, Department of Veteran Affairs, Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurers can acquire even lower prices through discounts and rebates.

ADDITIONAL COSTS AND HEALTH RISKS CREATED BY NOT TREATING HCV

| Chronic Disease | Increased Likelihood | Annual Cost/Person |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Liver Cancer | 17.0x ⁷ | \$ 60,863 ⁸ |
| Liver Failure | 6.6x ⁹ | \$ 575,000 ¹⁰ |
| Renal Failure | 2.9x ⁹ | \$ 76,059 ^{**11} |
| COPD | 2.4x ⁹ | \$ 9,800 ^{**12} |
| Mood & Anxiety Conditions | 2.2x ⁹ | \$ 6,475 ^{**13} |
| Rheumatoid Arthritis | 2.0x ¹⁴ | \$ 36,053 ¹⁵ |
| Type 2 Diabetes | 1.3x ⁹ | \$ 9,601 ¹⁶ |
| Asthma | 1.3x ⁹ | \$ 3,226 ¹⁷ |

*Medicare's average per patient cost

**Includes extra medical costs for comorbidities exacerbated by the condition



- ¹ American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. 2020. HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C. <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>
- ² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2020. Vital Signs: Dramatic increases in hepatitis C. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/vitalsigns/index.html>
- ³ Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. 2020. Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access. <https://stateofhepc.org/>
- ⁴ Moreno, Gigi et al. 2016. "Costs and Spillover Effects of Private Insurers' Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment." *American Journal of Managed Care*. <https://www.ajmc.com/view/costs-and-spillover-effects-of-private-insurers-coverage-of-hepatitis-c-treatment>
- ⁵ Moreno, Gigi et al. 2016. "Costs and Spillover Effects of Private Insurers' Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment." *American Journal of Managed Care*. <https://www.ajmc.com/view/costs-and-spillover-effects-of-private-insurers-coverage-of-hepatitis-c-treatment>
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- ⁷ Lin, Ming et al. 2015. "Hepatitis C Virus-Associated Cancer." *Annual Review of Pathology*. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-pathol-012414-040323>
- ⁸ Xu, Fujie et al. 2014. "Hospitalizations and Costs Associated With Hepatitis C And Advanced Liver Disease Continue To Increase." *Health Affairs*. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2014.0096>
- ⁹ Cooper, Curtis et al. 2019. "HCV-Infected Individuals Have Higher Prevalence of Comorbidity and Multimorbidity: A Retrospective Cohort Study." *BMC Infectious Diseases*. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-019-4315-6>
- ¹⁰ Disability Benefits Help. "Liver Disease and Social Security Disability." <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/disabling-conditions/liver-disease-and-social-security-disability>
- ¹¹ United States Renal Data System. 2020. "Healthcare Expenditures for Persons with ESRD." Annual Data Report. <https://adr.usrds.org/2020/end-stage-renal-disease/9-healthcare-expenditures-for-persons-with-esrd>
- ¹² Ford, Earl et al. 2015. "Total and State-Specific Medical and Absenteeism Costs of COPD Among Adults Aged ≥ 18 Years in the United States for 2010 and Projections Through 2020." *Chest*. <https://doi.org/10.1378/chest.14-0972>
- ¹³ Revicki, Dennis et al. 2012. "Humanistic and Economic Burden of Generalized Anxiety Disorder in North America and Europe." *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2011.11.014>
- ¹⁴ Fu-Hsiung Su et al. 2014. "Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Is Associated with the Development of Rheumatoid Arthritis." *PLOS ONE*. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0113579>
- ¹⁵ Hresko, Andrew et al. 2018. "Medical Care Costs Associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis in the US: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis." *Arthritis Care & Research*. <http://doi.org/10.1002/acr.23512>
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- ¹⁷ Tursynbeck, Nurmagambetov et al. 2018. "The Economic Burden of Asthma in the United States, 2008-2013." *Annual American Thoracic Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1513/annalsats.201703-259oc>
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- ¹⁹ Razavi, Homie et al. 2013. "Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Disease Burden Cost in the United States." *Hepatology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hep.26218>

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