



Learning Community to Support Integrating HCV Services into Opioid Treatment Programs

This online Learning Community (LC) is an intensive, collaborative, interactive professional learning opportunity focused on integration of hepatitis C (HCV) services into opioid treatment programs (OTPs). The LC includes a virtual kick-off and eight online sessions (February - September 2022) and is based on the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network's "[Your Guide to Integrating HCV Services into Opioid Treatment Programs.](#)"

Background: According to the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HCV testing [recommendations](#), all adults, aged 18-79, including pregnant women, should be tested for HCV. Most adults only need to be tested once. However, those who have continued risk of infection, such as individuals with active injection drug use, should be tested periodically. USPSTF also suggests that clinicians consider testing people outside of the 18-79 age range if they are at high risk of infection (past or current injection drug use).

This LC will help OTPs learn how to integrate, expand and enhance HCV services into their current clinical practices. HCV services include prevention education, screening, antibody HCV tests, confirmatory RNA HCV testing and HCV treatment (including referrals to outside treatment providers and onsite treatment).

Desired Participants: Publicly funded OTPs interested in implementing, expanding or enhancing HCV services. OTPs must:

- Have leadership support and buy-in for participation in the Learning Community and support for implementation of Hepatitis C services.
- Be ready to implement or have already implemented HCV antibody testing.
- Select and commit staff members who will serve as their LC Core Team.
 - **Change Leader** (serves as the point person from the OTP, participates in initial session specifically for Change Leaders as well as all LC sessions, and coordinates other OTP team members)
 - **Clinical Lead** (OTP clinical staff person able to impact clinical pathways, workflows and has decision-making authority; participates in some LC sessions)
 - **Finance Lead** (OTP staff with significant finance and billing responsibility; participates in key LC sessions focused on finance)
 - **Medical Lead** (OTP medical director who oversees medical and prescriber initiative; participates in some or all LC sessions as available)
 - **Executive Director/CEO** (top leadership of OTP; may or may not participate in LC sessions, but provides support and resources for OTP staff participation)
- Have the ability to collect and report out on data.
- Commit approximately 5-10 administrative hours per month to support implementation and participation.

ATTC Network Coordinating Office (NCO) / Opioid Response Network (ORN) Commitment

Throughout the course of the LC, ATTC NCO / ORN will:

- Provide all materials and facilitation of the LC to participants at no cost.
- Provide participant materials to assist in the creation of their Action Plan.
- Offer individualized consultation and technical assistance to OTPs.
- Connect participants to other relevant resources.

(cont.)



Participating OTP Commitment

Throughout the course of the LC, each OTP will:

- Attend and *actively participate* in Learning Community activities, such as online LC sessions and technical assistance meetings for about 2 to 3 hours per month over the course of eight months.
- Share OTP's current policies related to the delivery of HCV testing and/or treatment services.
- Submit data and information (before, during, and after the LC) regarding patient testing, such as:
 - What percentage of your patients are eligible for HCV testing?
 - What proportion of new patients do you currently test for HCV?
 - Are patients tested on-site?
 - Are patients tested by a partner organization off-site?
 - Are you performing antibody testing?
 - Are you performing RNA testing?
 - Are you providing HCV patient education?
 - What is your staff readiness for HCV treatment integration in the OTP?
 - What is staff willingness to deliver/receive HCV services in the OTP?
 - What is staff confidence to deliver integrated HCV services in the OTP?
- Develop an Action Plan over the course of the LC for how the organization will fully integrate HCV testing (and possibly treatment).
- Schedule Action Plan meetings with Core Team members to develop and evaluate progress towards goals.
- Present a brief report during the final LC session on successes, progress and lessons learned.

Benefits for Participating OTPs

OTPs who participate in the LC will have the opportunity to:

- Learn from subject matter experts in the fields of substance use disorders and infectious disease.
- Receive technical assistance related to service integration throughout the course of the LC.
- Meet peers from OTPs across the country and learn how they are working to integrate HCV services.

Getting Involved

OTPs interested in participating in the LC should submit a brief (1-2 paragraphs) Interest Statement to Kelly Reinhardt reinhardt@umkc.edu and Kristen Zucht zuchtk@umkc.edu no later than **February 4, 2022**.

The Interest Statement should include the following information:

- The name and location of the OTP
- The number of individuals served by the OTP in 2021 (or a close estimate)
- Why the OTP is interested in participating in the LC
- What, if any, HCV services the OTP currently provides
- Information about the OTP's Change Leader (see description on the first page of this document) – name, role within the OTP, and why they are a good fit for the Change Leader role

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelly and Kristen at the email addresses listed above.