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MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

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Division of Public Health

To: North Carolina Local Health Directors: CD Nurses

From: Christina Caputo, MPH- NC Hepatitis Program Manager;

Scott Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD-Director, NC State Laboratory of Public Health **Subject:** Hepatitis B and C virus expanded testing availability through the NC State Laboratory

of Public Health (NC SLPH) **Date:** September 27, 2018

Effective October 1, 2018, risk-based hepatitis B and C virus screening will be available to all local health departments through the NCSLPH. This expanded screening will be available for Medicaid-eligible and uninsured patients who meet any of the below screening criteria

## **Hepatitis B virus**

- People and their sexual partners who currently use drugs not as prescribed
- People with a history of drug use
- People who are HIV positive
- Men who have sex with men
- People who have Hepatitis C

## **Hepatitis C virus**

- People and their sexual partners who currently use drugs not as prescribed
- People with a history of drug use
- People who are HIV positive
- People with a history of incarceration
- People born between the years of 1945 and 1965

Specimen submission forms for hepatitis B virus (DHHS 3722) and hepatitis C virus (DHHS 1111) testing can be accessed here.

The Communicable Disease Branch will be hosting a one-hour webinar on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 12pm for local health department staff, to provide additional information regarding the expansion of hepatitis B and C virus testing. The webinar will cover the below topics:

- Counseling messages for patients being screened
- Information about the testing report form and process for submitting samples to SLPH
- Referral processes for HBV and/or HCV positive patients.

To register for the webinar "Hepatitis B and C Virus State Laboratory Testing Expansion": <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6888696927924643586">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6888696927924643586</a>

Please feel free to contact the Communicable Disease Branch with any questions or concerns at 919-546-1634, or email at <a href="mailto:christina.caputo@dhhs.nc.gov">christina.caputo@dhhs.nc.gov</a>