Diagnoses Metric

Objective

As one of the three primary metrics designed to track Hepatitis C Elimination, the hepatitis C diagnoses metric aims to monitor new diagnoses of hepatitis C statewide annually. Currently, the diagnosis of hepatitis C infection includes a screening HCV antibody test and a hepatitis C RNA test to confirm diagnosis.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hepatitis C testing algorithm includes an antibody screening test and a hepatitis C RNA test to confirm current infection [1]. The antibody screening test is the first step in identifying a person ever infected with hepatitis C. A hepatitis C RNA test is then required for individuals with a positive screening test to diagnose active infection.

Methodology

Laboratory reporting regulations and NYS HCV case surveillance systems

In NYS, reporting of suspected or confirmed hepatitis C is mandated under the New York State (NYS) Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10). Providers, including physicians, infection control practitioners, and providers from state and local institutions, are required to report cases of hepatitis C to their local health department (LHDs). In New York State (NYS), laboratory reporting guidelines require reporting of positive hepatitis C antibody test results, positive hepatitis C RNA results and, as of July 2014 in New York City and January 2016 statewide, negative hepatitis C RNA results.

Counties across the state -including in New York City (NYC)- receive laboratory reports for their residents through the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS) and subsequently conduct case investigations on newly reported cases of hepatitis C. During the investigation demographic and risk factor information is collected primarily by local health departments (LHDs) using the Communicable Disease Electronic Surveillance System (CDESS) in NYS outside of NYC and MAVEN in NYC. Due to the high volume of laboratory reporting, a limited number of newly reported cases of hepatitis C are investigated by LHDs each year. Augmentation of surveillance data, including demographic and risk factor information, is done through matches with other data sources.

Hepatitis Elimination and Epidemiology Dataset (HEED)

The primary data source for the diagnoses metric is the Hepatitis Elimination and Epidemiology Dataset (HEED), a statewide registry of individuals with a history of or current hepatitis C. HEED has been developed using data from ECLRS, CDESS, and MAVEN. HEED will be updated annually to establish the total number of C patients diagnosed with hepatitis C in New York State and their outcomes.

Diagnoses Metric Outcome Measure

Primary Outcome Measure: Number of New Diagnoses of Active Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection in NYS		
Measure Specification	*Definition*	*Monitoring*
Number of new diagnoses of active HCV infection in NYS	Number of individuals with a positive HCV antibody test **AND** positive HCV viral load test (HCV confirmatory RNA test), **OR** positive HCV viral load test, **OR** determined genotype test [1]	Baseline: 2016 Frequency: Annual

1. CDC. Testing for HCV infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians. MMWR 2013;62(18)