



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Clinical Prevention Services
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Date: August 22, 2016 **Administrative Circular:** 2016:14

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: **Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control**

**Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 1:
Communicable Disease Control**

(1) Hepatitis C – Updated – Discard and Replace Entire Section: *Hepatitis C* (July 2013)

- **page 3 – Section 2.0: *Definitions*** – 11 new terms defined. Laboratory definitions combined.
- **page 8 – Section 3.0: *Hepatitis C Virus*** – Epidemiology section updated. New Risk Factor table included.
- **page 15 – Section 4.0: *Laboratory Information*** – new HCV testing flowchart. Reflex testing clarified, genotype testing to be ordered with first HCV RNA and HCV RNA interpretation clarified. Reflex vaccination emphasized.
- **page 20 – Section 5.0: *Public Health Management*** – incorporated *Hepatitis C Panorama Staging Bulletin* from May 2015 into table format and updated definition of resolved hepatitis C.
- **page 23 – Section 6.0: *Acute Case Management*** – reorganized into sections. Hepatitis Education Canada’s Cascade of care is integrated and a broader approach to Case Management encouraged to consider the wider social determinants of health. General treatment information provided.
- **page 42 – *Appendix E: Quick Reference Guide for Health Care Providers*** – new testing reference guide, also exists as a stand-alone document
- Updated references, resources and formatting (including ‘Practitioner alerts’) throughout.

(2) *Hepatitis C Testing Guideline – Quick Reference Guide for Health Care Providers*

- New quick reference guide for HCV testing is located in *Appendix E* of the *Hepatitis C Guideline*
- Available as a standalone document for printing in Chapter 1: *Communicable Disease Control*

(3) Blood and Body Fluid Exposure (BBFE) Management Guideline and Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool

- Updated all hyperlinks. This includes refreshed links to the following updated forms:
 - *Health 2339: Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Laboratory Requisition*
 - *Health 2340: Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Letter for Follow-Up Physician.*
- Aligned to reflect updates to the newly revised HIV and HCV guidelines including alterations to follow up testing timelines to reflect the 4th generation HIV test
- Page 4 – formatting changes for clarity - *Diagnostic Tools*
- Page 8 – formatting changes for clarity - *Laboratory Testing*

(4) BCCDC Sample Letter: Isolated Hepatitis B Core Antibody Positive Test Results

- Updated for clarity and consistency in follow-up care for isolated hepatitis B Core positive test results.
- Standardized letter to place greater focus on the client and the ordering health care provider; and decrease the responsibility of Public Health to automatically conduct follow-up of contacts.
- Contact follow-up will be a considered by the ordering provider in relation to individual client care.
- Recommendations are simplified to consider offering one HBV vaccine series and no routine follow –up.

Please remove the following section from the Communicable Disease Control Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Hepatitis C

- BCCDC Guideline: *Hepatitis C*; July 2013 (pp. 1-38)
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management*; July 2015 (pp.1-27)
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool*; July 2015 (pp.1-12).

Please insert the following updated section to the Communicable Disease Control Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Hepatitis C

- BCCDC Guideline: *Hepatitis C*; August 2016 (pp. 1-47)
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management*; August 2016 (pp.1-27)
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool*; August 2016 (pp.1-12).
- BCCDC Sample Letter: *Isolated Hepatitis B Core Antibody Positive Test Results*; August, 2016

The following members of the BCCDC Clinical Prevention Services team are available for further information or to answer questions:

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Sincerely,



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