
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2003 Session of
2014

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PICKETT, SCHLOSSBERG, PEIFER, QUINN AND CLYMER,
JANUARY 30, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 30, 2014

AN ACT

1 Providing for hepatitis C testing and treatment and for duties
2 of the Department of Health.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Hepatitis C
7 Screening Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

13 "Health care facility." As defined in section 802.1 of the
14 act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
15 Facilities Act.

16 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of the

1 act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
2 Facilities Act.

3 "Health care provider." As defined in section 103 of the act
4 of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
5 Facilities Act.

6 "Hepatitis C diagnostic test." Any laboratory test or tests
7 that detect the presence of hepatitis C virus in the blood and
8 provide confirmation of whether an individual has a hepatitis C
9 virus infection.

10 "Hepatitis C screening test." Any laboratory screening test
11 or tests that detect the presence of hepatitis C virus
12 antibodies in the blood.

13 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the act of July
14 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities
15 Act.

16 "Physician." As defined in section 2 of the act of December
17 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of
18 1985.

19 "Primary care." Health care that emphasizes a patient's
20 general health needs and utilizes collaboration with other
21 health care professionals and consultation or referral as
22 appropriate to meet the needs identified.

23 Section 3. Hepatitis C screening.

24 (a) Requirement.--Each individual born between the years of
25 1945 and 1965 who receives health services as an inpatient in a
26 hospital or who receives primary care services in an outpatient
27 department of a hospital, health care facility or physician's
28 office shall be offered a hepatitis C screening test or
29 hepatitis C diagnostic test unless the health care practitioner
30 providing the services reasonably believes at least one of the

1 following:

2 (1) The individual is being treated for a life-
3 threatening emergency.

4 (2) The individual has previously been offered or has
5 been the subject of a hepatitis C screening test, except that
6 a test shall be offered if otherwise indicated.

7 (3) The individual lacks capacity to consent to a
8 hepatitis C screening test.

9 (b) Follow-up health care.--If an individual accepts the
10 offer of a hepatitis C screening test and the screening test is
11 reactive, the health care provider shall either offer the
12 individual follow-up health care or refer the individual to a
13 health care provider who can provide follow-up health care. The
14 follow-up health care shall include a hepatitis C diagnostic
15 test.

16 Section 4. Reporting.

17 (a) Department.--On or before January 1, 2016, the
18 department shall evaluate and report on the impact of this act
19 with respect to:

20 (1) The number of persons who are screened for hepatitis
21 C.

22 (2) The number of persons who have accessed care
23 following a positive test for hepatitis C.

24 (b) Submission.--The report shall be submitted to the
25 Governor and to the chairman and minority chairman of the Public
26 Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the chairman and
27 minority chairman of the Health Committee of the House of
28 Representatives.

29 Section 5. Licensed practitioners.

30 This act shall not affect the scope of practice of any health

1 care practitioner or diminish any authority or legal or
2 professional obligation of any health care practitioner to offer
3 a hepatitis C screening test or hepatitis C diagnostic test or
4 to provide services or care for the subject of a hepatitis C
5 screening test or hepatitis C diagnostic test.

6 Section 6. Duties of department.

7 The offering of hepatitis C screening testing under this act
8 shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate in accordance
9 with regulations promulgated by the department.

10 Section 7. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.