

1 AN ACT regarding hepatitis C screening and awareness.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section. 1. This Act may be cited as the Hepatitis C  
5 Screening and Awareness Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act:

7 "Department" means the Illinois Department of Public  
8 Health.

9 Section 10. Education programs and resource  
10 identification. The Department shall:

11 (1) Establish and promote hepatitis C education  
12 programs as an integral part of its health promotion and  
13 disease prevention efforts in order to raise public  
14 awareness, educate consumers, and educate and train  
15 health care professionals and human services providers.

16 (2) Identify resources for hepatitis C education,  
17 screening, and treatment and coordinate the efforts of  
18 existing organizations with new programs and with each  
19 other so as to maximize education and access to services.

20 Section 15. Awareness, diagnosis, and treatment  
21 strategies. The Department may use the following strategies  
22 for raising public awareness of the causes, including  
23 personal risk factors, and the nature of hepatitis C, the  
24 value of prevention and early detection, and options for  
25 diagnosing and treating the disease:

26 (1) An outreach campaign utilizing print, radio,  
27 and television public service announcements,  
28 advertisements, posters, and other materials.

29 (2) Community forums.

1           (3) Health information and risk factor assessment  
2 at public events.

3           (4) Targeting at-risk populations.

4           (5) Providing reliable information to policy  
5 makers.

6           (6) Distributing information through local health  
7 agencies, schools, employer wellness programs,  
8 physicians, hospitals, health maintenance organizations,  
9 prisons, sports leagues, nonprofit organizations,  
10 community-based organizations, State fairs, and  
11 Department and local public health offices.

12           (7) Identifying and obtaining educational  
13 materials, including brochures and videotapes that  
14 translate accurately the latest scientific information on  
15 hepatitis C in easy-to-understand terms.

16           (8) Building a statewide capacity to provide  
17 information and referrals on all aspects of hepatitis C,  
18 including but not limited to, educational materials,  
19 counseling, and patient support groups.

20           Section 20. Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment, and  
21 therapeutic decision-making. The Department shall use the  
22 strategies, protocols, and guidelines adopted by the National  
23 Institutes of Health on hepatitis C for educating physicians  
24 and health professionals and training providers on the most  
25 recent scientific and medical information on hepatitis C  
26 detection, diagnosis, treatment, and therapeutic  
27 decision-making. The guidelines may include, but not be  
28 limited to, the following:

29           (1) Tracking and reporting of both acute and  
30 chronic cases of hepatitis C by public health officials.

31           (2) A cost-efficient plan to screen the prison  
32 population.

33           (3) Protocols that may be used within the

1 Department of Corrections to enable that Department to  
2 provide appropriate treatment to prisoners with hepatitis  
3 C.

4 (4) Protocols for the education of correctional  
5 officers and other correctional workers who work with  
6 prisoners with hepatitis C.

7 (5) Protocols for public safety and the problem of  
8 health care workers who come in contact with hepatitis C  
9 patients.

10 Section 25. Required hepatitis C screenings. The  
11 following persons shall be screened for hepatitis C using the  
12 most cost-efficient methods available and using generally  
13 accepted protocols for screening:

14 (1) Psychiatric patients entering a State mental  
15 health or developmental disabilities facility.

16 (2) Department of Corrections employees who come in  
17 direct contact with prisoners.

18 (3) Prisoners entering State correctional  
19 institutions or facilities.

20 (4) Employees of a State mental health or  
21 developmental disabilities facility who come into direct  
22 contact with patients of that facility.