



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

July 18, 2019

Dear Louisiana Health Care Provider:

I am proud to ask you to join our ground-breaking initiative to eliminate hepatitis C in Louisiana. Our innovative subscription model for medications that cures Hepatitis C positions us to be the first state in the nation to eliminate the most deadly infectious disease of our time, to save lives, to prevent disability, and to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars of costs over the long term.

To achieve these ambitious goals we need your help.

On June 26th, we announced the launch of Louisiana's Hepatitis C Elimination Program and the formal establishment of the first-in-the-nation hepatitis C modified subscription model. **I'm thrilled to share that the Hepatitis C Elimination Program officially went live across the state on July 15th.**

Under the agreement, the Louisiana Departments of Health and Corrections have entered into a five-year contract with Asegua Therapeutics to provide unrestricted access to its authorized generic of Eplclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir) for treatment of hepatitis C among Medicaid beneficiaries and incarcerated patients. **Generic Eplclusa is effective against all known hepatitis C genotypes and is safe for patients with advanced fibrosis and/or cirrhosis.**

The Louisiana Department of Health aims to diagnose 90 percent of individuals living with chronic hepatitis C and cure 80 percent of them. **We want all of you to join in this elimination effort by screening the populations you serve and treating all eligible individuals living with hepatitis C.**

The Louisiana Department of Health stands ready to help you. We ask that you please join us on **July 25th, 2019 at 12:00 PM** for a one-hour webinar for providers entitled, **Louisiana's Hepatitis C Elimination Program: Streamlining Testing and Treatment**. During this call we will review the Hepatitis C Elimination Program and a **streamlined test and treat algorithm** which will eliminate elements of the existing care model that are unnecessary with a single therapy, one pill/once-a-day for twelve weeks regimen.

Every provider in Louisiana has a role to play in ending the hepatitis C epidemic. Thank you for your tireless partnership and your unending commitment to improving the health of Louisianans. Together we can create a "Hep C Free Louisiana"!

Sincerely,

Rebekah E. Gee, MD, MPH
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health