High profile healthcare-associated hepatitis C cases including Exeter Hospital in New Hampshire in 2012 and more recently at a dental office in Oklahoma highlight the importance of investigating acute cases of hepatitis C. The MDPH Epidemiology Program recently completed a tip sheet to assist local boards of health in completing acute hepatitis C virus (HCV) case investigations.

Why is it important to investigate acute HCV cases?
- To prevent additional cases by providing information to the hepatitis C (HCV)-infected individual on how to avoid exposing others.
- To improve outcomes for HCV-infected individuals by educating them on the importance of continued medical evaluations and providing referrals to medical or support services.
- To identify clusters of cases or outbreaks, in particular, those that appear to involve healthcare-associated transmission; the more quickly we can identify these situations the more quickly we can stop further transmission.

What is the role of the MDPH Epidemiology Program in acute HCV investigations?
- To identify cases that may be acute or have transmission related to healthcare and determine if further follow-up is necessary. These cases include young people (under 30), elderly (=>70) anyone with jaundice or ALT>400 reported, or anyone with recent seroconversion.
  - If the suspect acute case (as described above) is 30 or older, the case is assigned to the LBOH for further follow-up.
  - If the case is under 30 years of age, the Acute Case Reporting Form (ACRF) is automatically completed by the provider and sent to MDPH. These cases will only be assigned to the LBOH for follow up if we do not receive a completed ACRF for them.

What is the role of the LBOH in acute HCV investigations?
- To educate the individual on ways they can reduce the risk of transmission to others.
- To provide referrals to the individual for medical or support services as needed.
- To collect missing data on the case, particularly information about an individual’s possible exposures.

**NOTE:** Cases of chronic HCV infection that are not assigned to the LBOH do not need to be investigated.

Details on how to conduct an acute HCV case investigation, including MAVEN screen shots, can be found in the tipsheet "Investigating Acute Hepatitis C Cases". This new tip sheet is attached and also available online in the MAVEN Help section.

*If you have questions about MAVEN, please email isishelp@state.ma.us or contact the MAVEN help desk at 617-983-6801.*
*If you have questions about acute HCV investigations, please contact the Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.*