

Hepatitis Treatment Resources

There are no specific statewide programs for hepatitis treatment in Texas. However, below are some resources for general medical access and treatment. Most have eligibility requirements. A summary is below:

Disability Determination Services

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Division for Disability Determination Services (DDS) funded entirely through the Social Security Administration (SSA), makes disability determinations for Texans with severe disabilities who apply for Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income. Texans with disabilities apply for benefits at their local Social Security Office and their applications are forwarded to DDS for a disability determination; however, SSA is responsible for making final decisions as to whether or not a person is eligible to receive benefits.

To apply for disability benefits, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at ssa.gov to learn more about the application process for disability benefits. If you have already filed a disability claim with Social Security, you may contact Disability Determination Services about processing your claim at 512-437-8000 or 1-800-252-7009 with information or questions concerning your claim.

Texas Medicare/Medicaid Program

Persons with hepatitis B or C may be eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, which would cover treatment:

Medicare is a federal program that may help to provide healthcare coverage for:

- People 65 years of age and older, and
- Certain younger people with disabilities, and
- People with end-stage renal disease (people with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a transplant).

For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Information can be found on the Internet at medicare.gov.

Medicaid is a joint federal/state program that may help to provide healthcare coverage for people who are low-income and are:

- Pregnant
- A child (up to age 19 years old)
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Blind

To apply for Medicaid:

(1) Children (birth through age 18) may be eligible. Call TEXCARE Partnership at 1-800-647-6558 or go to texcarepartnership.com.

(2) Adults (pregnant women and adults with children in the household) should contact 800-252-8263 or 211 to apply or email: medicaid@hhsc.state.tx.us.

If a patient is chronically ill with hepatitis B or C and unable to work, he or she can apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which may come with Medicare: call 1-800-772-1213.

Veterans Health Administration

If your patient is a veteran with hepatitis B or C, you can call 800-423-2111 for more information.

Texas HIV Medication Program

A person who has hepatitis B or C and is also infected with HIV can receive assistance with their medications. If you are dually diagnosed, you can call 1-800-255-1090 for enrollment criteria.

Compassionate Care Programs

Pharmaceutical companies provide compassionate care programs for qualifying patients, you can contact them at:

Infergen Patient Support Line	888-668-3393
Roche's Helpline Reimbursement Hotline (Roferon A)	800-443-6676
Roche's Reimbursement Hotline (Pegasys)	877-PEGASYS
Schering's Commitment to Care	800-521-7157
GlaxoSmithKline Commitment to Access (Lamivudine)	866-265-6491
Gilead Gilead Advancing Access (Adefovir)	
Other prescription drug assistance programs:	
rxassist.org	
needymeds.com	

There are a couple of organizations that can help in accessing clinical trials, they are:

The **St. Luke's Liver Outreach** is located in Houston and is a part of St. Luke's hospital. Their number is 1-800-72LIVER. They are an excellent resource. Their email and web addresses are:

Email: mail@texasliver.org

Website: texasliver.org

The **Alamo Medical Research (AMR)** is an organization dedicated to clinical research specializing in Phase I-IV Gastroenterology and Hepatitis C clinical trials since 1994. The organization is very well known for its vast research experience, knowledge and publications specifically aimed at Hepatitis C. Their number is 210-253-3426 and they are located at:

621 Camden St. Ste # 202
San Antonio, TX 78215

The **Texas Clinical Research Institute** can also assist with access to clinical trials on hepatitis B and C. Their contact is:

Cheryl Levine
1001 N Waldrop Dr, Suite 512
Arlington, TX 76012
817-471-1070

The **UTSWMC Liver Studies Center** is located in Dallas and is conducting clinical trials on hepatitis B and C:

Nahid Attar – Coordinator
214-645-6188

Meg Mazour
Research Coordinator
Central Texas Clinical Research
900 E 30th St STE 302
Austin, Texas 78705
512-480-9660 P
512-480-8244 F

Local Indigent Care Assistance

Depending on the geographic area of Texas that a patient resides, there are various local indigent care resources for individuals that need assistance with medical care. Most of them have eligibility requirements that you will need to meet. An example of these can be found below:

Harris County Hospital District Financial Assistance Program
c/o Patient Eligibility Services Administration
PO BOX 300488
Houston, TX 77230
713-566-6509

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service
Medical Assistance Program
1111 E. Cesar Chavez
Austin, TX 78702
512-978-8130

Dallas County and Parkland Hospital Clinics
Main campus (inpatient, outpatient, emergency, Ambulatory Care Clinic)
5201 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75235
214-590-8000

Project Access Tarrant County (PATC) is a network of volunteer physicians, partnering hospitals, charitable community clinics, and other healthcare partners who volunteer to provide services to qualified patients. Qualified patient participants must not exceed

200% of the federal poverty level, be without medical insurance, and not enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, JPS Connection or VA benefits. Some patients will need PATC services for a limited time while others may have more problems that require extended services.

Patients will be qualified and PATC will schedule the patient's initial appointment with their assigned medical home. A medical home will be established through a primary care physician or one of the nine participating charitable community clinics. PATC staff schedules all specialty, ancillary, and hospital referral requests. The patient's primary care physician completes a PATC Referral Request Form and submits it to PATC. After the appointment(s) have been made, the medical home will be notified by fax regarding the patient's appointment information. PATC will also notify the patient of all specialty, ancillary, and hospital appointments made on the physician's behalf. PATC coordinates everything for the volunteer physician and his/her staff.

Patients pay a \$25 enrollment fee to enter the program. Patients are not charged for their appointments or services. Patients are required to show a picture ID and PATC ID card upon each office visit.

PATC does not cover chemotherapy or cancer treatments, dialysis, pregnancy, emergency medicine, serious psychiatric issues, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS.

For more information, contact PATC at 817-632-7531.

The Nueces County Indigent Program provides health care assistance for Nueces County residents who do not qualify for any other state or federal medical assistance programs. Applicants must meet residency, income and resource eligibility criteria. Apply at the following locations.

Christus Spohn Hospital - Memorial
Dept: Enrollment Counselors - Financial Assistance Department
2606 Hospital Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78405
361-902-4855
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Christus Spohn - Family Health Center - Robstown
Dept: Enrollment Counselors
1038 Texas Yes Boulevard
Robstown, TX 78380
361-861-9005 and 361-861-9006
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Christus Spohn - Family Health Center - Westside
Dept: Enrollment Counselors
4617 Greenwood Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78416
361-814-8448 or 361-814-8449
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hepatitis Support Groups

Many individuals find local assistance by contacting a hepatitis support groups. These individuals have been in the same situation that you are in and can provide you with some guidance and assistance. St. Luke's Liver Outreach can provide you with contact information for support groups in your area. Their number is 1-800-72LIVER. Their email and web addresses are:

Email: mail@texasliver.org

Website: texasliver.org