



December 13, 2017

## Public Health Alert: Immunize Men Who Have Sex with Men Against Hepatitis A

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends immunization against hepatitis A infection for men who have sex with men (MSM) due to their increased risk of infection. A total of 51 cases of hepatitis A have been reported in 2017 in California, which represents a four-fold increase from 2016.

The Alliance recommends that providers routinely identify and vaccinate MSM, noting the below:

- \* Due to recent disease activity, some providers have experienced a shortage of the single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine; if this is the case, the Alliance recommends administering the hepatitis A and B combination vaccine instead. Recommended billing codes are:
  - o 90632 - Hepatitis A vaccine (HepA), adult dosage, for intramuscular use
  - o 90636 - Hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine (HepA-HepB), adult dosage, for intramuscular use
- \* Provide any other recommended vaccinations if not yet received, including, but not limited to, hepatitis B vaccine and the annual seasonal influenza vaccine.
- \* Immediately report all suspect and confirmed hepatitis A cases to your local health department.

The following documents are helpful resources to share with patients:

- "Vaccinations for Men Who Have Sex With Men," available at [immunize.org/catg.d/p4046.pdf](http://immunize.org/catg.d/p4046.pdf)
- "Viral Hepatitis: Information for Gay and Bisexual Men," available at [cdc.gov/hepatitis/populations/pdfs/hepgay-factsheet.pdf](http://cdc.gov/hepatitis/populations/pdfs/hepgay-factsheet.pdf)