



Hepatitis C Medication

Quick Reference Guide

2026

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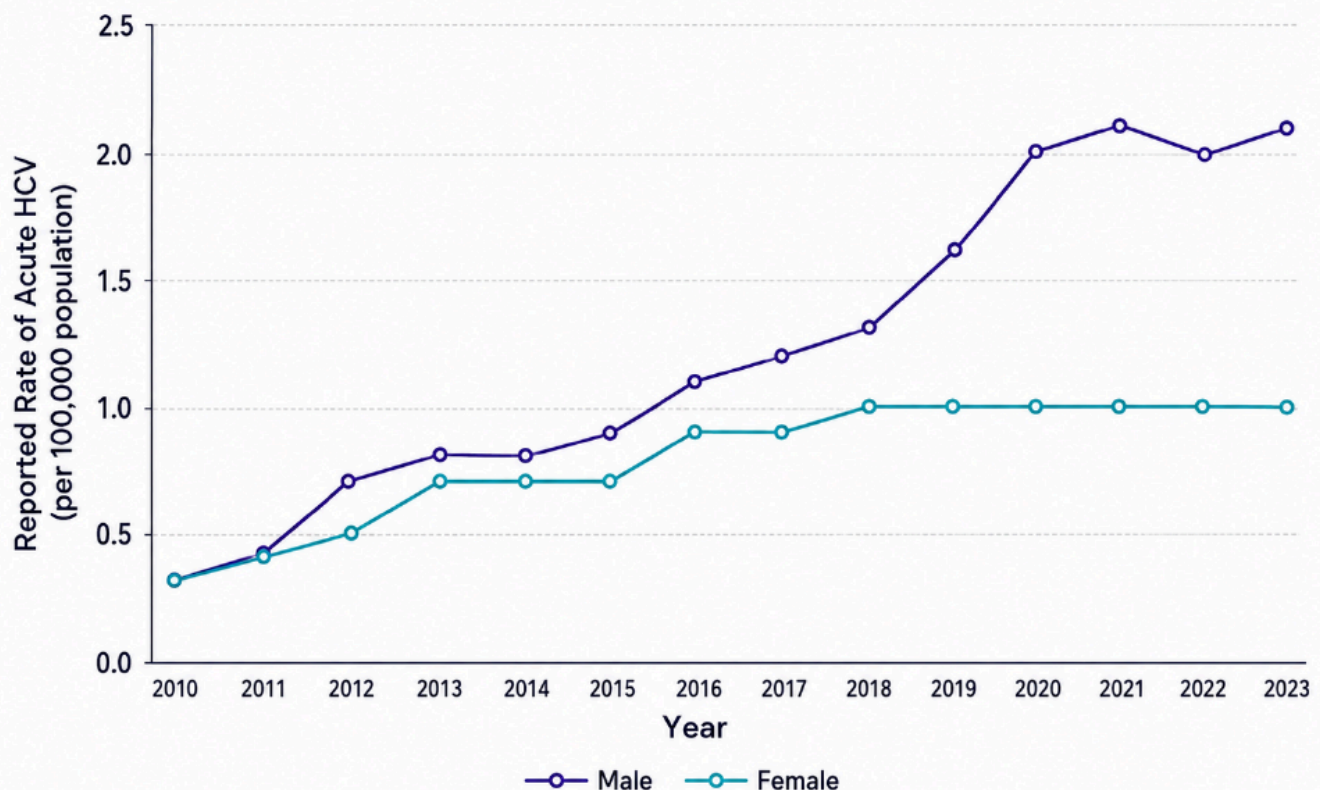
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LANDSCAPE OF HEP C MEDICATIONS IN VBC

Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapies are curative, short-course oral medications used to treat chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Their greatest and most well-established benefit is achieving **sustained virologic response (SVR)**, defined as **undetectable HCV RNA** 12 weeks after treatment completion, which is considered a **virologic cure**.^{1,2} SVR is associated with a **>70%** reduction in the risk of **hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)**, a **90%** reduction in the risk of liver-related mortality and liver transplantation, reduced all-cause mortality, and improvements in extrahepatic manifestations including cryoglobulinemic vasculitis, quality of life, and physical functioning.^{3,4}

HCV infection is the **most commonly reported chronic bloodborne infection** in the United States and a leading cause of complications from chronic liver disease.⁵⁻⁷ An estimated **2.4 to 4 million** adults in the United States have current HCV infection (~**1.0-1.6%** prevalence), with approximately **44,700** new infections occurring annually, driven in large part by the ongoing opioid and injection drug use epidemic.^{1,5,7}

Reported Rate of Acute HCV by Sex, 2010–2023



Source: CDC Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report—United States, 2023.

HCV-associated morbidity is sizable: approximately **20-30%** of chronically infected individuals progress to cirrhosis, and HCV remains a leading indication for liver transplantation.

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