



***Substitute Senate Bill No. 257***

***Public Act No. 14-203***

***AN ACT CONCERNING HEPATITIS C TESTING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Hepatitis C screening test" means a laboratory test that detects the presence of hepatitis C virus antibodies in the blood;

(2) "Hepatitis C diagnostic test" means a laboratory test that detects the presence of hepatitis C virus in the blood and provides confirmation of whether the person whose blood is being tested has a hepatitis C virus infection;

(3) "Primary care provider" means a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant who provides primary care services and is licensed by the Department of Public Health pursuant to Title 20 of the general statutes; and

(4) "Primary care" means the medical fields of family medicine, general pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, primary care obstetrics or primary care gynecology, without regard to board certification.

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 257***

(b) On and after October 1, 2014, a primary care provider shall offer to provide to, or order for, each patient who was born between 1945 to 1965, inclusive, a hepatitis C screening test or hepatitis C diagnostic test at the time the primary care provider provides services to such patient, except a primary care provider is not required to offer to provide to, or order for, such patient a hepatitis C screening test or hepatitis C diagnostic test when the primary care provider reasonably believes: (1) Such patient is being treated for a life-threatening emergency; (2) such patient has previously been offered or has received a hepatitis C screening test; or (3) such patient lacks the capacity to consent to a hepatitis C screening test.

Approved June 13, 2014