

Hyde County Health Department

P.O. Box 100
1151 Main Street
Swan Quarter, N.C. 27885

Phone (252) 926-4399
Fax (252) 926-0021



*From the Lodge to the Lighthouse
We're striving for a healthier Hyde*

*Luana C. Gibbs, RN
Interim Health Director*

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Contact: Misty Gibbs, Public Information Officer
Phone: 252-926-4184
Fax: 252-926-0021
Email: mgibbs@hydehealth.com

Hyde County Health Department Offering Hepatitis C Treatment Free Hepatitis C Testing Available

Swan Quarter, North Carolina –Hyde County Health Department is now offering Hepatitis C treatment to patients. Anyone who has tested positive for Hepatitis C, at the Health Department or with any other medical provider, can be referred to the Hepatitis C treatment program. Most major insurances are accepted, or patients can be seen on a sliding fee scale, which adjusts the cost of visits and lab work according to individuals' household size and income. Hyde County Health Department will work with pharmacies for participants to receive Hepatitis C medications at little or no cost to patients who qualify. Provider Kelley Newman stated, "It is wonderful to be able to tell patients that they are cured of a previously incurable disease. The new medications used for treatment have fewer side effects and are more effective. Treatment usually consists of daily medication for 8-12 weeks."

The Hyde County Health Department currently offers free Hepatitis C testing for individuals who have a history of incarceration, people who are HIV positive, people and their sexual partners who currently use drugs not as prescribed, people with a history of drug use and individuals born between 1945-1965 (or "Baby Boomers.") Those that do not qualify for free testing can still be tested by billing insurance or for a small fee.

Kelley Newman, Family Nurse Practitioner with Hyde County Health Department participated in the Carolina Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (CHAMP), sponsored by the UNC School of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, and the NC Division of Public Health. In this program, Ms. Newman worked with Triangle-based physicians to learn more about how to treat and monitor patients seeking Hepatitis C treatment. Ms. Newman will continue to consult with UNC and Duke-based physicians as she provides treatment through the Hyde County Health Department.

World Hepatitis Day is July 28, 2019. Now is the time to seek information and treatment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 252-926-4399.

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