

# Who We Are



## History

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) began as a coalition of numerous advocacy organizations, government agencies, insurers, and others who met periodically throughout 2003 to establish a blueprint by which the NVHR could operate. NVHR established bylaws and appointed a volunteer steering committee in 2003 and elected a steering committee from its membership in 2004. NVHR continues to operate under the leadership of an elected, eleven member steering committee. A general election of the membership is held annually for three year terms. An executive committee of the steering committee is elected each year to work with the organization's paid director to conduct NVHR business.

## Recommendations for a National Strategy

NVHR spent more than two years developing and debating the best way to prevent unnecessary suffering and death caused by viral hepatitis. In 2006, NVHR released *Eliminate Hepatitis: A Call to Action*. This comprehensive document recommends that the nation:

- Build the capacity to address the challenges of viral hepatitis.
- Vaccinate America to eliminate vaccine-preventable viral hepatitis
- Counsel, test and refer persons at risk to inform them about how to reduce their risks
- Provide care and medical management for persons with chronic viral hepatitis

## Become a Member Today

As a member of NVHR, your organization will be a part of a national viral hepatitis advocacy and networking coalition. NVHR members receive regular communications and updates on prevention, treatment, and care issues, in addition to webinar trainings, viral hepatitis public health resources, capacity-building resources for your organization, and opportunities for linkages to other members. In addition, member organizations are invited to participate on committees and work groups to further NVHR's mission, vote in elections for NVHR's Steering Committee and serve in leadership positions of the coalition.

**Joining is fast, easy and free.** There are no membership dues or fees and benefits provided to our members are free-of-charge. Membership is open to any 501 c (3) nonprofit organization interested in viral hepatitis. Simply go to our website at [www.NVHR.org](http://www.NVHR.org) and click on "Join NVHR" at the bottom of the page.

*The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is a coalition of public, private, and voluntary organizations dedicated to reducing the incidence of infection, morbidity, and mortality from viral hepatitis in the United States.*

# What We Do



The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) focuses on both programmatic and policy work. Our programmatic work focuses on national networking and partnership development and capacity-building to organizations to improve viral hepatitis programs. Our policy work focuses on increasing awareness, education, and resources at the federal level for an adequate federal response to viral hepatitis. Current activity highlights are listed below.

## PROGRAM

### **Networking and Partnership Development**

NVHR in partnership with the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) receive funding from the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis to strengthen networking and partnership among hepatitis coalitions, community based and national organizations. Through this work, NVHR continues to bring together hepatitis B and hepatitis C advocates to form a stronger and united national response to the viral hepatitis epidemics in the United States.

### **Capacity-Building Activities**

NVHR currently provides regular communications and tip sheets, in addition to hosting educational webinars to build organizational capacity among community-based non-profits in order to improve viral hepatitis services and programs in the United States.

## POLICY

### **Health Reform**

NVHR convened a committee of national viral hepatitis advocates to develop recommendations and principles for chronic viral hepatitis inclusion in the ongoing federal health care reform agenda. These documents are used to educate Members of Congress about the prevention and care needs of persons impacted by viral hepatitis.

### **Institute of Medicine Report**

NVHR and the Centers for Disease Control are cosponsoring an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study on prevention and control of viral hepatitis in the United States. A final report of the study's findings is scheduled to be released by the IOM in December, 2009. NVHR will be leading national advocacy efforts, including congressional briefings, around the study's dissemination and its use for improving the Nation's response to viral hepatitis.

### **Collaboration**

NVHR collaborates with other national coalitions and organizations to ensure a strong and united collective effort to respond to the viral hepatitis needs in the United States. Every voice in viral hepatitis advocacy is needed to increase our national response.

*The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining a national strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis in the United States.*