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Community Access National Network Launches HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch

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Contact:
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Washington, D.C. – The Community Access National Network (CANN) today announced that it has launched a new flagship program called the “**HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch**,” designed to monitor relevant information and trends relating to co-infection. The HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch will be patient-centric, focusing on the myriad issues impacting access to care. It will be published electronically monthly and posted online at tiicann.org.

The **HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch** will monitor the following items:

- AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) covering HCV treatments.
- Medicaid programs covering HCV treatments.
- Number of total co-infected patients per state.
- Number of new co-infected patients per state.
- Morbidity statistics per state.
- CDC Surveillance.
- Public and private insurance barriers to accessing HCV treatments.
- Other miscellaneous issues as they arise.

Summarized **Bill Arnold**, CANN’s President & CEO: “People living with HIV infection are disproportionately affected by viral hepatitis; about one-third of HIV-infected people are co-infected with Hepatitis C, which can cause long-term illness and death. Hepatitis C progresses faster among people living with HIV infection and people who are infected with both viruses experience greater liver-related health problems than those who do not have HIV infection. Although antiretroviral therapy has extended the life expectancy of people living with HIV infection, liver disease—much of which is related to Hepatitis C has become the leading cause of non-AIDS-related deaths among this population.”

Additional information about the CANN HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch can be found online at <http://tiicann.org/>.

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About the Community Access National Network: *The Community Access National Network (CANN) works to improve access to comprehensive medical services for people living with HIV and Hepatitis C. These services must be affordable to the people who need them regardless of insurance status, income, or geographic location.*

Community Access National Network, Inc. (CANN)

Programs include: 1) National ADAP Working Group (“NAWG”), 2) Hepatitis: Education, Advocacy & Leadership (“HEAL”)