Best Practice/Intervention:	Backus et al. (2005). Effects of Hepatitis C Virus Coinfection on Survival of Veterans with HIV Treated With Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, *39*, 613-619
Date of Review:	January 26, 2012
Reviewer(s):	Christine Nguyen

Part A

Category:	Basic Science ☐ Clinical Science ☐ Public Health/Epidemiology ☒ Social Science ☐ Programmatic Review ☐
Best Practice/Intervention:	Focus: Hepatitis C ☐ Hepatitis C/HIV ☒ Other: _____ Level: Group ☒ Individual ☐ Other: _____ Target Population: HIV-infected veterans on HAART, including those co-infected with HCV Setting: Health care setting/Clinic ☒ Home ☐ Other: _____ Country of Origin: United States Language: English ☒ French ☐ Other: _____

Part B

	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
Is the best practice/intervention a meta-analysis or primary research?	☐	☐	☐	Meta-analysis: the results of several studies have been combined to investigate the effect of co-infection on mortality; however, results are conflicting
Has the data/information been used for decision-making (e.g. program funding developments, policies, treatment guidelines, defining research priorities and funding)?	☐	☒	☐	Although the article does not refer to any decision-making based on the data, it is apparent that HCV-seropositivity and -seronegativity has become an important predictor of mortality for HIV patients receiving HAART. Treatment guidelines can be implemented in the future to include HCV treatments that reduce the risk of death and extend the lives of co-infected patients.
Do the methodology/results described allow the reviewer(s) to assess the generalizability of the results?	☐	☒	☐	Results may not be generalizable due to limitations such as: • the use of all-cause mortality as opposed to liver-associated mortality as the outcome • the use of data in an administrative database during routine clinical care

				• unknown or immeasurable confounding factors may exist • use of an overly sensitive measure to define HCV infection • HCV treatment have been prescribed for indications other than HCV • cohort consists of US veterans in VA care, who are predominantly men, and is thus not representative of populations with different socioeconomic conditions or more women
Are the best practices/methodology/results described applicable in developed countries?	☒	☐	☐	
	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
Are the best practices/methodology/results described applicable in developing countries?	☐	☐	☒	
The research study/tool/data dictionary is easily accessed/available electronically	☒	☐	☐	Downloaded from http://journals.lww.com. Electronically accessible: major data source was the Immunology Case Registry (ICR), which is an automated extract of VA electronic medical record information for HIV-infected patients receiving care at all VA medical facilities.
Is there evidence of cost effective analysis with regard to interventions, diagnosis, treatment, or surveillance methodologies? If so, what does the evidence say? Please go to Comments section	☐	☐	☒	
Are there increased costs (infrastructure, manpower, skills/training, analysis of data) to using the research study/tool/data dictionary?	☐	☐	☒	
How is the research study/tool funded? Please got to Comments section	☐	☐	☒	Not stated
Is the best practice/intervention dependent on external funds?	☐	☐	☒	Not stated
Other relevant criteria: _____	☐	☐	☐	
WITHIN THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR REVIEW				
Are these data regularly collected?	☒	☐	☐	The study cohort consisted of HIV-infected veterans on HAART receiving care at US Department of Veterans Affair facilities from whom data was regularly collected concerning HIV status, HIV viral load status,

				HIV viral replication levels, CD4 cell count, and other variables related to HAART initiation and exposure.
Are these data regularly collected at and/or below a national level?	☒	☐	☐	Data is regularly collected below a national level from a specific population group: HIV-infected veterans on HAART with particular focus on those co-infected with both HIV and HCV.
Are these data collected manually or electronically?	☐	☐	☐	Data sources were collected electronically via the Immunology Case Registry.
RESEARCH REPORTS				
Has this research been published in a juried journal?	☒	☐	☐	*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*
Does the evidence utilize the existing data/surveillance information or has it generated new data and/or information?	☐	☐	☐	The evidence utilizes existing data/surveillance information in its objective to investigate the effect of coinfection on mortality.