



## Hepatitis C Fact Sheet

**Dr. Paul Noel of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Carl J Keldie of “Correct Care Solutions”<sup>2</sup> are allowing men and women to die of the infectious disease Hepatitis C, when a lifesaving cure is available,<sup>3</sup> in the form of one pill a day for 12 weeks.**

This is intentional medical neglect, a violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment<sup>4</sup> and a violation of their Hippocratic oath.<sup>5</sup>

On March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 Mumia Abu-Jamal, 61 years old, was near death in renal failure and hospitalized from medical neglect, at the Schuylkill Medical Center, in Pottsville PA.<sup>6</sup>

Mumia Abu-Jamal is ill with active Hepatitis C,<sup>7</sup> and the medically indicated care is a new regime of anti-viral drugs with a 90%+ cure rate.<sup>8</sup>

Abu-Jamal is a noted writer, who spent 30 years on death row and is now serving life in prison. He has received support from Amnesty International, Nelson Mandela<sup>9</sup> and Desmond Tutu, among many others.

As the drug’s inventor, Michael Sofia of Doylestown PA, notes, “How can you deny people access to a cure?”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cor.pa.gov/Administration/Pages/Central%20Office.aspx#.Vi-ZB\\_mrSR9](http://www.cor.pa.gov/Administration/Pages/Central%20Office.aspx#.Vi-ZB_mrSR9)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.correctcaresolutions.com/dr-carl-keldie-named-chief-clinical-officer/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.everydayhealth.com/news/new-pill-late-stage-hepatitis-c-cures-95-percent/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-viii>

<sup>5</sup> <http://guides.library.jhu.edu/c.php?g=202502&p=1335759>

<sup>6</sup> Marchiano, A. (2015, March 31). Mumia Abu-Jamal in hospital. Republican Herald pp. 1, 7

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.prisonradio.org/sites/default/files/letters/pdf/Report%20and%20Rec.%20%281%29.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/42/1/82.full#ref-1>

<sup>9</sup> Letter from Mandela to Abu Jamal, Summer 1995

<sup>10</sup> [http://articles.philly.com/2015-06-01/business/62882738\\_1\\_sofosbuvir-hepatitis-c-sovaldi](http://articles.philly.com/2015-06-01/business/62882738_1_sofosbuvir-hepatitis-c-sovaldi)

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a major public health problem for persons of all races, and it has become the most common cause of death associated with liver disease in the United States.<sup>11</sup> There are presently 3.2 million infected with the disease in the U.S., and half a million people in prison have Hepatitis C.<sup>12</sup> Mumia Abu Jamal's organ failure and potential liver damage puts him, by the Federal Bureau of Prisons' standards, among those who should be treated.<sup>13</sup>

As that number rises, we must always keep in mind that one in every 100 Americans is currently in prison or jail and that 11.5 million people will be released from jail back into the community, often with high rates of infectious disease.<sup>14</sup>

It is imperative to treat this, the deadliest infectious disease,<sup>15</sup> especially as it affects men and women in prison.<sup>16</sup>

Pennsylvania has a contract with for-profit health care provider "Correct Care Solutions,"<sup>17</sup> and that group's Chief Clinical Officer is responsible for "ensuring appropriate care to all patients."<sup>18</sup>

But the bottom line on for-profit health care means sacrificing public/prisoner health for profit margins. In fact, these companies establish a cap on health care, which literally means that inmates are dying to improve their bottom line. That 70% of states have privatized prison health care means this issue can only be exacerbated.<sup>19</sup>

In order to protect the public health, we must stop this shameful practice of denying lifesaving health care to Mumia Abu-Jamal and Pennsylvania prisoners. We also must expose the risk public health imperative of treating Hepatitis C inside and outside of prisons.

Correct Care Solutions, one of the four largest providers of inmate health care in our country, was established to manage health care costs for inmates in order to

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<sup>11</sup> <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/42/1/82.full#ref-1>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2014/12/24/372721256/costly-hepatitis-c-drugs-threaten-to-bust-prison-budgets>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.bop.gov/resources/health\\_care\\_mngmt.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/resources/health_care_mngmt.jsp)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.antonioacasella.eu/archiva/Thompson\\_2010.pdf](http://www.antonioacasella.eu/archiva/Thompson_2010.pdf) Joel Thompson, Today's Deliberate Indifference: Providing Attention Without Providing Treatment to Prisoners with Serious Medical Needs, Harvard Civil Liberties Civil Rights Review pg 636 vo. 45)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.hepatitiscentral.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/csg/Corrections+Health+Care+Costs+1-21-04.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.emarketplace.state.pa.us/FileDownload.aspx?file=4400010454%5CContractFile.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.correctcaresolutions.com/dr-carl-keldie-named-chief-clinical-officer/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://reason.org/files/apr-2014-criminal-justice.pdf>

turn a profit. These companies have guaranteed prison officials and municipalities cost savings, at the expense of the health and well-being of prisoners. Their contracts give state and local governments in need of money a way to establish fixed costs for healthcare services through contracts based on a global rate per inmate.<sup>21</sup>

Due to continued prejudice in the justice system, Black and the community that they return to are most likely to suffer from the for-profit medical model. Black men are, as the Pew Research Center has discovered, six times more likely to go to prison than white men are.<sup>22</sup>

We must expose this urgent health care crisis, and we must save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Please ask your friends and family to join in order to increase the power of our voices.

Researched by Prison Radio [www.prisonradio.org](http://www.prisonradio.org) [bit.ly/curenw](http://bit.ly/curenw)

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.openminds.com/market-intelligence/executive-briefings/look-players-corrections-health-care.htm/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20130831/MAGAZINE/308319891>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/18/chart-of-the-week-the-black-white-gap-in-incarceration-rates/>