Managing Viral Hepatitis in Primary Health Care Settings and Exploring the Role of Non-Physician Clinicians
Disclosures

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• I have no financial conflicts of interest related to the content of this presentation.
The Role of a Clinical Pharmacist in the Management of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
Our Liver Clinic Setting

• In an academic medical center in Chicago
• Situated in the Outpatient Care Center
  • Space shared with GI Clinic
  • 1 attending room with 9 computers
  • 1 procedure room
  • 6 patient rooms
Our Liver Clinic Staff

- Hepatologists
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Clinical Pharmacist
- Nurse
- Fellows
- Receptionist
- Medical Assistants
Clinical Pharmacist’s Role: Interaction with Other Providers

• Serves as consultant or non-HCV questions from liver team
• Receives patient referrals from the physicians, PA, or NP for HCV treatment
• Works with physicians, PA, and NP to ensure that patients are ready for HCV treatment
• Enters HCV treatment evaluation note
  – Performs medication reconciliation
  – Identifies and manages drug interactions
  – Advises on baseline lab/immunization orders
Clinical Pharmacist’s Role: Interaction with Our Specialty Pharmacy

• Sends all HCV prescriptions to our institution’s Specialty Pharmacy
• Coordinates with Specialty Pharmacy for medication benefits review and approval
• Acts as a medication acquisition liaison
• Sends HCV prescriptions to outside pharmacies if necessary
Clinical Pharmacist’s Role: Interaction with Patients

- Once medication is approved, coordinates treatment initiation visit
- Holds patient education classes
- Conducts HCV education and treatment initiation visit
- Orders labs and follow-up clinic visits for entire course of HCV treatment
- Serves as direct phone contact for patients on HCV treatment
- Administers vaccinations
Patient Education

HCV Basics
- Modes of transmission
- Genotype, treatment differences
- Staging of disease

Lifestyle
- Abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, illicits
- Diet
- Exercise

Medications
- Adherence
- Adverse effects
- Interactions
- Mechanisms
- Monitoring
- Resistance
- Storage
Clinical Pharmacist Involvement in HCV Treatment

Benefits
• Pharmacist has medication therapy management skills
• More time spent educating patients
• Coordination of care shared among staff

Challenges
• Variations in provider styles
• Follow up
• Coordination of care shared among staff
Conclusion

• The clinical pharmacist can play an active role in the management of HCV treatment
• Clinical pharmacists can lessen the burden of HCV treatment management on physicians and other providers
• Pharmacists provide education and clinical services to improve patient care