

# HEPATITIS C: FROM THREAT TO CURE

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is the most common blood-borne infection in the US and a leading cause of liver failure and cancer. **3-5 million** in the US have been infected and **1-1.5 million** don't know that they still have the infection.





## WHY PRIMARY CARE?

The growing epidemic of HCV in the US highlights the need for **early detection** and **treatment**.

HCV treatment with Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) therapy is highly effective with minimal side effects.

Studies show primary care providers are **as effective as specialists** in managing most cases of HCV.

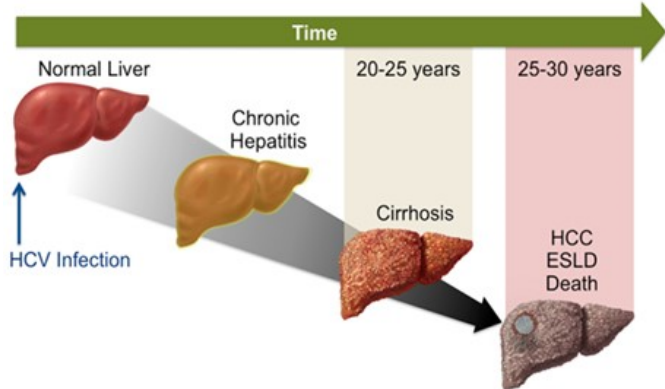
## TREATMENT PLAN

-  **Screen** with HCV Antibody with reflex to RNA Quant
-  **Stage** disease severity with blood tests and FIB-4 measure (non-invasive tool for measuring liver damage using lab results).
-  **Manage** patients by offering counseling to reduce risks, remove stigma, and offer hope. **Address** factors that worsen liver: alcohol use, HIV, hepatitis A or B.
-  **Treat** patients with DAAs in as few as 8 weeks with little to no side effects.

## HCV PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS

- HCV is 4 times more prevalent than HIV and hepatitis B
- 60-80%** of acute cases become a **chronic infection** with few or no symptoms for many years
- HCV can lead to fibrosis, cirrhosis, and Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)
- Centers for Disease Control recommends screening everyone over the age of 18 at least once, especially those with risk factors such as:
  - Intravenous Drug use
  - Tattoo in unregulated setting
  - Incarceration
  - Blood transfusion before 1992
- Younger adults 20-39 years old have the highest rates of new hepatitis C cases

## UNTREATED DISEASE PROGRESSION



**Remember: There is a cure!**