

Managing the Hepatitis C Virus: Challenges and Opportunities for Managed Care

This supplement to *The American Journal of Managed Care* reviews the clinical and economic burden of HCV infection and current therapies for HCV infection, describes challenges for managed care organizations and the cost-effectiveness of HCV infection treatment, and discusses upcoming and future therapies.

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Continuing Education

Managing the Hepatitis C Virus: Challenges and Opportunities for Managed Care

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Estimated time to complete activity: 2.5 hours

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Intended Audience

The audience for this supplement consists of medical directors, pharmacy directors, and other managed care professionals who oversee the care of patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Statement of Educational Need/Program Overview

HCV infection is a major, chronic health problem. HCV infection complications include fibrosis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, and it is the leading cause of end stage liver disease requiring transplantation in the United States. Modeling studies have shown that morbidity and mortality due to HCV infection are expected to double or even triple over the next 2 decades, leading to a dramatic rise in the burden associated with the disease.

The primary goal of treating HCV infection is prevention of HCV-related complications and death, but the therapeutic goal is achieving a sustained virologic response. Several knowledge, performance, and outcomes gaps, however, exist which prevent clinicians from being able to achieve this goal, including only moderate or suboptimal responses to current standard therapies and treatment-related adverse events.

Addressing these gaps is necessary to improve HCV infection management and outcomes. Introduction of the protease inhibitors telaprevir and boceprevir is expected to make a significant impact on sustained virologic response rates. Other therapies in development, such as nucleoside inhibitors, non-nucleoside inhibitors, NS5A inhibitors, directly acting antiviral combinations, therapeutic vaccines, human monoclonal antibodies, and immune modifiers hold promise in the treatment of HCV infection.

This educational activity will inform managed care professionals about the clinical and economic burden of HCV infection and current therapies for HCV infection, describe challenges for managed care organizations and the cost-effectiveness of HCV infection treatment, and discuss upcoming and future therapies.

Educational Objectives

After completing this activity, the participant should be better able to:

- Describe the burden associated with HCV infection
- Evaluate the efficacy of standard-of-care therapies in the management of HCV infection and efforts to optimize viral eradication in HCV-infected patients, thereby reducing disease burden
- Identify predictors of treatment outcomes, including the impact of genotype and adherence, to select and apply strategies to improve treatment response
- Assess the potential of emerging HCV infection therapeutic strategies for improving treatment response and outcomes in HCV-infected patients, including available efficacy and safety data

Physician Continuing Medical Education

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the University of Cincinnati. The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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Pharmacist Continuing Education

Accreditation Statement



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