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Dear Advanced Health Providers:

Attached is new Hepatitis C Readiness to Refer Tool. Due to the overwhelming demand for hepatitis C services, the out of area GI and hepatology specialists have requested we develop a tool to streamline the hepatitis C referral process in order to optimize the potential for successful treatment.

Considering Hepatitis C is a chronic, non-urgent condition that often takes 20-30 years to progress to cirrhosis, ensuring the optimization of member health is essential to successful outcomes and longevity. Per the CDC, approximately 5-20% of patients who develop chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) will develop cirrhosis and only 1-5% will die from the consequences of chronic infection (liver cancer or cirrhosis). <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/hcvfaq.htm#section1>

The Readiness to Refer Tool is intended to be used for asymptomatic HCV patients. Patients who are exhibiting symptoms of liver disease (e.g. jaundice, ascites, or encephalopathy, etc.) should be referred for a specialty evaluation and management of their decompensated liver disease.

The Readiness to Refer Tool can be used as a checklist to help you ensure that best conservative management practices are in place. Once the Hepatitis C Readiness to Refer Tool has been completed, and any identified barriers have been resolved, please submit the completed tool with your GI or Hepatology referral request and supporting documentation.

If you have questions regarding the Readiness to Refer Tool, please contact Kristien Van Elsberg at 541-266-6504 or Caryn Mickelson at 541-269-4558.

If you would like additional information about HCV, please see the links below:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/hcvfaq.htm#section1>
- American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases – <http://www.aasld.org/patients>

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the care of our Advanced Health members.

Sincerely,

Advanced Health Medical Management Team