



ADVANCING INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

Best Practices in Addressing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in Primary Care: ECHO® Learning Series

Session 5: Hepatitis C

Date: January 22, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: Project ECHO case consultations do not create or otherwise establish a provider-patient relationship between any clinician and any patient whose case is being presented in a project ECHO setting

Care Transformation Collaborative of RI

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
7:30-7:35 AM	<p>Welcome, Announcements</p> <p>Introductions</p>	<p>Yolanda Bowes, CTC-RI</p> <p>Dr. Pat Flanagan, CTC-RI</p>
7:35-8:00 AM	<p>Hepatitis C</p>	<p>Dr. Alan Epstein, Open Door Health</p>
8:00-8:20 AM	<p>Case Presentation</p>	<p>Kristen Foskett, Brown University Health</p>
8:20-8:30 AM	<p>Discussion & Questions</p>	<p>Dr. Pat Flanagan, CTC-RI</p>

Welcome

- The didactic portion of today's session will be recorded for educational purposes and to enhance quality improvement.
- Case presentations will not be recorded, in consideration of confidentiality and respect for sensitive information.
- Please refrain from sharing any protected health information (PHI) or other sensitive information during the session.
- We kindly ask all participants to be respectful of their peers by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Please enable your video when possible, so we can foster a more engaging & collaborative environment
- Enter your name and organization in the chat box upon joining the session

Introduce
Yourself



- Please keep your microphone muted when not actively speaking to minimize background noise & interruptions

Microphones



Case Presentation Schedule



ADVANCING INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

Date	Topic	Didactic Presenter	Case Presenter
9/25/24	Sexual Health & Confidentiality <i>Health Disparities, Sexual History, Counseling</i>	Jack Rusley MD, MHS	
10/23/24	Syphilis	Erica Hardy, MD, MMSc	Dr. Elizabeth Lange
*11/20/24	HIV and PrEP	Philip A Chan, MD, MS	Dr. Adam Pallant
*12/10/24	Chlamydia & Gonorrhea	Matthew Perry, MD, ScM	Dr. Carol O Shea
1/22/25	Hepatitis C	Alan Epstein, MD	Kristen Foskett, DNP
2/26/25	Other STIs	Katherine Hsu, MD, MPH, FAAP	Dr. Debra Filardo



Alan Epstein, MD

Alan Epstein MD was the director of gastroenterology at Roger Williams Medical Center for 32 years and an assistant professor at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr Epstein founded the American Liver Foundation branch here in RI in 1994 and served on the ALF medical advisory board for over 30 years. Dr Epstein is a father of a pediatrician and grandfather of 2 girls. Dr Epstein is a newlywed as of 10/20/24. He is now a physician at Open Door Health.

Update on Hepatitis C

22 Jan 2025

Dr. Alan Epstein, MD

Physician, Open Door Health

Looking at Rhode Island

**RI Population: 1
Million**

**Hepatitis Cases:
1190 cases/100K;
approx. 10K
cases**

Goals for Primary Care

Screen

**Screen Patients:
Every person once**

- IVDA & MSM

Check

**Check for Hepatitis
A & B Seriology &
Vaccinate
accordingly**

Evaluate and treat

**If Hepatitis B
surface Ag
positive, evaluate
and treat
(nucleosides/tides)**

Obtain

**Obtain sufficient
baseline labs to
evaluate for
disease stage**

- CBC, Diff, Platelets, Prothrombin time
- HCV Ab with reflex for PCR quantitative
- Genotype (for the authorization)
- Fib-4 testing, fibrosure

Goals for Primary Care (Continued)

Send	Discuss	TREAT!!	Discuss	Consider
If advanced cirrhotic, send to GI for therapy and follow up	Discuss alcohol use; consider fatty liver disease (MASLD, MASH, MetALD)	TREAT!! (or refer)	Check SVR at 12 weeks (4)	Consider Imaging such as: ultrasound, elastography, CT, MRI, MRE

After Confirming SVR

Follow Hep B, if on therapy

Revisit alcohol and MASLD issues

If non-cirrhotic, no follow-up

If cirrhotic, co-follow with GI
(ultrasounds, AFP, EGD for varices, etc.)

Regimens

Sofosbuvir (NS5B) – Velpatisvir (NS5A)

1 pill daily for 12 wks

Glecaprevir (Protease Inhibitor) – Pibrentasvir (NS5A)

3 pills daily for 8 wks

Counseling Patients

No sharing razors or toothbrushes

Barrier contraception until SVR

**Post treatment success is “not”
protective for reinfection!**

Odds & Ends

Pediatrics:

- **Pediatric patients can be treated with FDA approval for over age 3**
- **Treatment is weight based, and either regimen can be used**

Re-screening:

- **Patients with ongoing risky behavior should be re-screened**
- **Many offices re-screen two to three times per year**
- **Don't forget Hep A & B vaccinations and other STI screening**

Some Contraindications to Treatment

Active uncontrolled
Hep B...get control
here first

Amiodarone use
(arrhythmia)

Decompensated
cirrhosis –
particularly with
Protease Inhibitors

Pregnancy is not yet
FDA approved for
therapy

Work with the
Transplant
Team



Questions?

If any questions, contact:

Dr. Alan Epstein

aepstein@riphi.org

CME/CEU Credits

(applied for MDs, PAs, Rx, RNs, NPs, PhD)

- CME/CEU Credits – Please request session credits when filling out the evaluation at the end of the meeting.
- Evaluation/Credit Request Form:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STI_ECHOSERIES
- Evaluations must be completed to receive credit
- Certificates will be mailed ~ 1 month after event



The AAFP is reviewing “ECHO Series Focused on Best Practices and QI,” and is pending approval if deemed acceptable for AAFP credit. Term of approval is from 9/2/24 to 9/2/25. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. NPs and RNs can also receive credit through AAFP’s partnership with the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB).

Resources

- [Hepatitis C Resources for Health Care Professionals | Hepatitis C | CDC](#)
- RI PrEP Champions: [Pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\): Department of Health](#)

Thank you!

Final ECHO Session:

Date: Wednesday February 26, 2025, 7:30-8:30 AM

Session: **Other STI's**

Evaluation/Credit Request Form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STI_ECHOSERIES