

# REFER

## Patient discussion considerations

### Explain why referral is necessary

Tell your patient that to ensure the best care possible, he/she will be referred to a treatment provider with experience treating HCV. Let the patient know which particular treater he/she will be seeing, any information the treater may need from him/her, and how often the patient will need to visit the treater.

### Explain the liver complications that can arise from delaying treatment

Tell your patient that because HCV is a progressive disease, the risk of complications, such as liver fibrosis/cirrhosis and liver cancer, can increase if treatment is delayed.

### Tell your patient what to expect

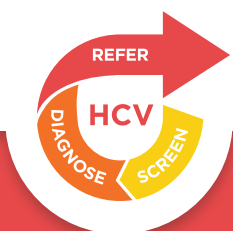
Let your patient know that the treatment provider will order tests to monitor the virus and look for signs of liver disease. Tests may include liver function tests to diagnose and monitor liver disease or an ultrasound exam to look for any physical signs of liver damage.

### Make it clear that therapy can lead to cure

Tell your patient that advances in HCV management and treatment have made cure more possible for patients. Cure, also known as sustained virologic response (SVR), is defined as no detectable HCV in the blood at least 12 weeks after completion of therapy.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Assure your patient you will stay in contact

Although the treatment provider will be managing further tests and treatment evaluation, you will be available to discuss the patient's visits with the treatment provider and answer any questions he/she may have.



1. US Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Draft Guidance for Industry. Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection: Developing Direct-Acting Antiviral Drugs for Treatment. May 2016.  
2. AASLD, IDSA, IAS-USA. Recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. <http://www.hcvguidelines.org>. Accessed September 21, 2017.