

# OUTPATIENT GP REFERRAL GUIDELINES

## LIVER / HEPATOBIILIARY

### Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)

### Viral Hepatitis

**Hepatitis C** is a significant health issue in Australia, affecting approximately 1% of the population. Without substantial increase in the uptake of antiviral therapy the number of patients developing cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer is projected to dramatically rise over the following decades (Reference Hepatitis C Action Plan 2009-2012). Hepatitis C can be cured with current new generation antiviral therapy in up to 95% of cases, with minimal side effects. Lack of diagnosis and treatment may lead to preventable complications of cirrhosis (liver failure and hepatocellular cancer) in up to 15% of infected patients.

#### Information Required

- Presence of red flags
- Presence of co-infection (i.e. another virus – HIV)
- Treatment to date

#### Investigations Required

##### Preliminary investigations required:

- HCV PCR, Viral load and Genotype
- HAV/HBV & HIV serology including pre and post discussion
- FBE, ELU, LFT's, TFT's, INR, & Beta HCG for females.
- Upper Abdominal U/sound

**Fax Referrals to** Viral Hepatitis Clinic on 8204 3943

### Red Flags

- Jaundice
- Abnormal liver function tests
- Presence of risk factors

### Suggested GP Management

#### Who to screen: High risk Populations

- Prior or current injecting drug users
- Prior tattooing
- Recipients of blood products pre 1990
- Overseas migrants from highly endemic areas
- Close personal contacts of infected persons
- Abnormal LFT's
- High risk CALD communities due to non-sterile medical procedures in country of origin

#### Screening

- Hepatitis C antibody test\* (Anti-HCV antibody)  
\* (SA pathology and IMVS are preferred pathology providers)

#### Treatment

Newly diagnosed patients may be referred to the Flinders Medical Centre Viral Hepatitis Clinic for treatment and post treatment monitoring.

#### GP support: Viral Hepatitis Liaison Nurses

are based at Flinders Medical Centre and available to assist GP's with patient pre-referral work-up, treatment and post treatment management, as well as general enquiries and can be contacted during business hours on the numbers below:

**Rosalie Altus** Phone: 08 8204 6324 Mobile: 0466 777 876

[Rosalie.altus@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:Rosalie.altus@health.sa.gov.au)

**Emma Tilley** Phone: 08 8204 6421 Mobile: 0466 777 873

[Emma.tilley@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:Emma.tilley@health.sa.gov.au)

### Clinical Resources

#### Flinders Medical Centre Viral Hepatitis Clinic Referral

A named referral is required to either:

**Dr Alan Wigg, Dr Alex Rodgers, Dr Darren Mounkley, Dr Kate Muller**

if you chose for your patient to be seen as a private (Medicare) patient in the public system

- Gastroenterological Society of Australia: Chronic Hepatitis B Recommendations Australia and New Zealand (2010)  
<http://www.gesa.org.au/professional.asp?cid=9&id=109>
- Gastroenterological Society of Australia: Clinical guidance for treating hepatitis C virus infection: a summary  
[http://cart.gesa.org.au/membes/files/Resources/Hepatitis%20C/GP\\_wallchart\\_clinical\\_guidance\\_Aug\\_2017.pdf](http://cart.gesa.org.au/membes/files/Resources/Hepatitis%20C/GP_wallchart_clinical_guidance_Aug_2017.pdf)
- Hepatitis SA Website  
[www.hepccouncilsa.asn.au](http://www.hepccouncilsa.asn.au)

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients)

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2.0	November 2017	November 2019	Reviewed in 2017