

# Overcoming Access Issues: Advocacy and Assistance Programs

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July 28, 2015



# Disclosures

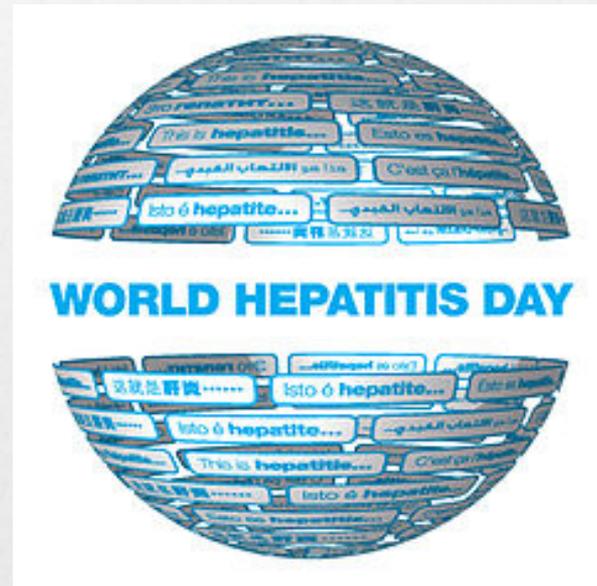
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- Advisory Boards:
  - Janssen, Gilead, AbbVie
- Speaker Bureaus:
  - Janssen, Gilead, AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Entera Health, Salix

# Outline

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- Assess patient readiness for treatment
- Examine various treatment obstacles
- Discuss Advocacy and Assistance Programs



# Assessing treatment readiness

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- Patient willingness
- Substance abuse
- Medication reconciliation
- Co-morbidity control
- Insurance
- Insurance Plan Guidelines for readiness:
  - Mental Health evaluation
  - Drug screens
  - Pregnancy
  - Disease severity prioritization

# Disease Severity Prioritization

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- Based on AASLD Guidelines
- Cirrhosis/Fibrosis
- HCV-influenced comorbidities (cryoglobulinemia, porphyria cutanea tarda, NASH)
- Co-infection status

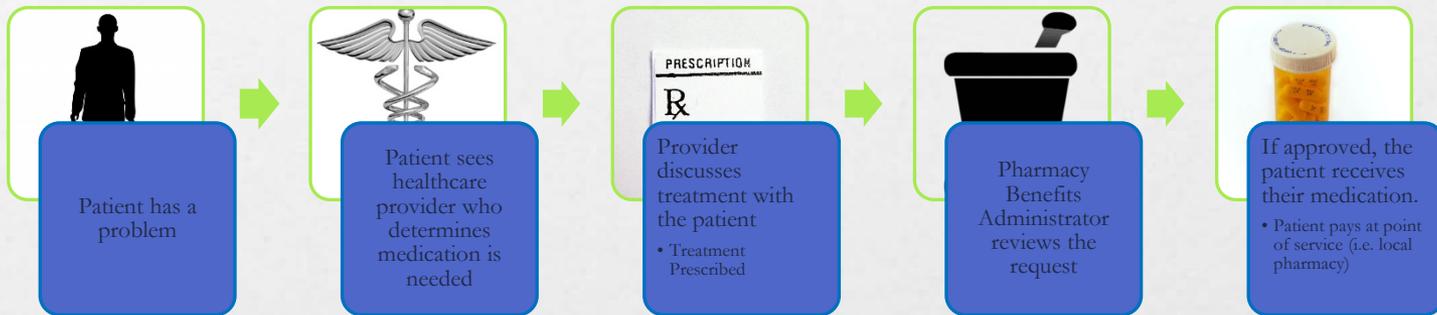
# Once readiness is established...

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- Provider prescribes HCV antiviral therapy based on
  - AASLD Guidelines
  - Plan formulary
  - Drug labeling
  - Patient wishes
  
- *But what really happens?*

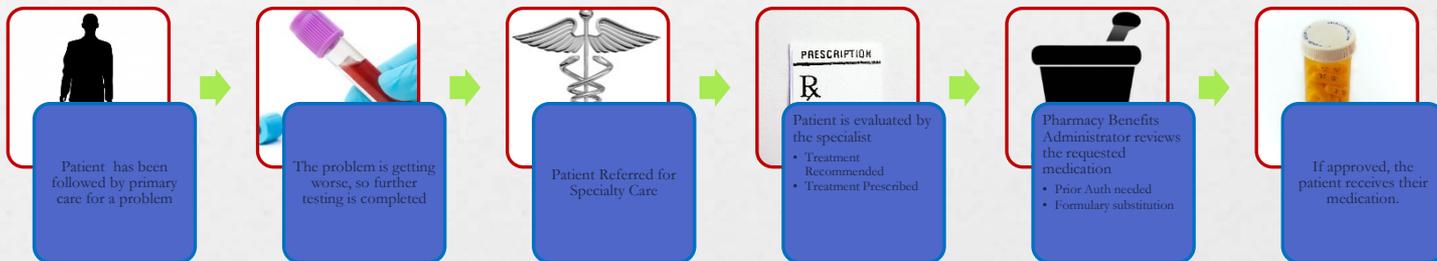
# The Traditional Flow

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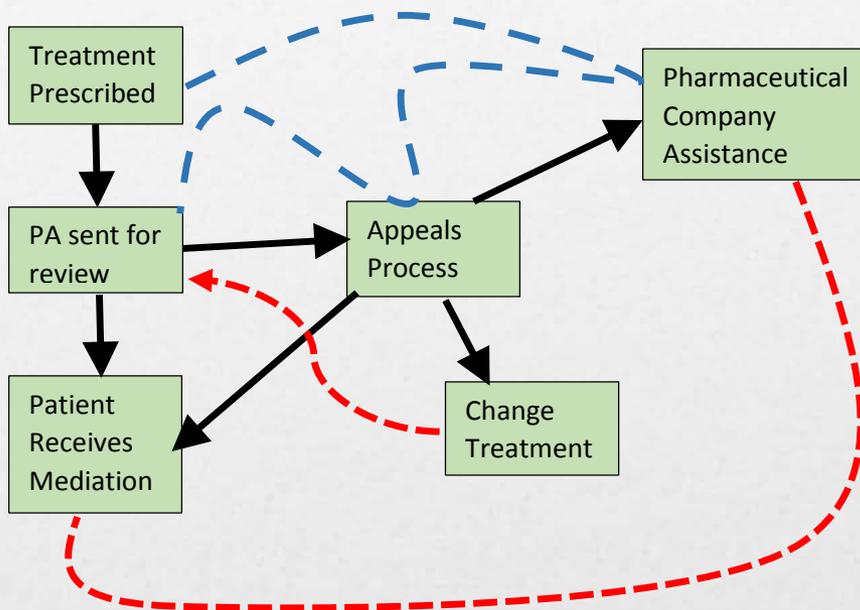


# The Specialty Drug Flow

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# The Hepatitis C Drug Flow



# Obstacle 1: Prior Authorization

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- Typically used on high cost medications
- Helps plans ensure medications are being used for reasonable purposes (supported by data)
- Can take place the same day as requested
- May take substantially longer periods of time
- Vary in length of information requested
- Can be initialized in the office, by the pharmacy, prescriber, etc.
- Can be completed by trained staff

# Obstacle 2: Denials

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- The Insurance Plan (Humana, Anthem, Cigna, etc.)
- The Pharmacy Benefits Administrator (Magellan, Caremark, Express Scripts, etc.)
- The Group Funded Plan (Ford, UPS, UofL)

# Why Deny?

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- Drug/Alcohol use/abuse
  - Past or Present
- “Not sick enough”
  - F0-F2 vs. F3-F4
- Missing information
  - Past treatment
  - Viral load, genotype
- Formulary
- One treatment per lifetime

# Obstacle 3: Appeals

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- Phone call to a Medical Director
- Appeals letter
  - Discuss health benefit to the patient
  - May reduce need for liver transplantation and risk of liver cancer
  - Provider may give more detail than on PA
  - Make the case for a non-preferred drug
    - Drug-Drug interactions
    - Past intolerance, allergy
    - Contraindications

The real obstacle:

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# Time to Tablet

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- Median: 45 days
- A change in insurance may re-start the clock

# Advocacy

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HCV Patient  
Advocate

**Advocacy**

The act of pleading or arguing  
in favor of something, such as  
a cause, policy, or interests or  
active support of an idea or c

# Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs

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## Who?

- Gilead
  - [sovaldi.com](http://sovaldi.com); [harvoni.com](http://harvoni.com)
- AbbVie
  - [viekira.com/proceed-program](http://viekira.com/proceed-program)
- Janssen
  - [janssenaccessone.com/pages/olysio/](http://janssenaccessone.com/pages/olysio/)
- Merck
  - [www.merckhelps.com/pegintron](http://www.merckhelps.com/pegintron)
- Kadmon
  - [drtms.net/Kadmon/Ribapak/Consumer.aspx](http://drtms.net/Kadmon/Ribapak/Consumer.aspx)
- Genentech
  - [www.pegasys.com/patient/resources/](http://www.pegasys.com/patient/resources/)

## Daklinza (daclatasvir)

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Approved Friday, July 24, 2015

Patient Support CONNECT Program

[Patientsupportconnect.com](http://Patientsupportconnect.com)

# What do they do for the Provider?

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## For the Provider

- Prior Authorization assistance
- Coverage determination
- Linkage to Specialty Pharmacy
- Appeals support



# What do the do for the Patient?

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- Copay assistance
- Refill reminders
- 24/7 Nursing Hotline
- Linkage to Foundation Assistance
- Free medication



# Portal Programs

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## Who has them?

- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Insurance Companies
- Independent Companies

## Examples

- Abbie: ProCeed Clinical Portal
- Humana, Anthem, etc.
- iAssist, CoverMyMeds

# What do they do?

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- Online access to Prior Authorization forms
- Tracking
  - PA status, shipment status, start dates, needed documentation
- Live Chat
- Faster response times
  - Instant notification in many cases

# Patient Advocacy Resources

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- Hepatitis C Advocate
  - [www.hepcadvocate.org](http://www.hepcadvocate.org)
- Patient Advocate Foundations Hepatitis C line
  - [www.hepatitisc.pafcareline.org](http://www.hepatitisc.pafcareline.org) 800-532-5274
- Patient Access Network Foundation
  - [www.PANfoundation.org](http://www.PANfoundation.org) 866-316-7263
- Partnership for Prescription Assistance
  - [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) 888-477-2669

# What do they do?

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- Provide patient-based education
- Applications for financial assistance
- Help with appeals, questions to ask your provider, etc.
- Links to community-based support groups and state Hepatitis coordinators
- Access to clinical trials

# Summary

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- Safe, effective cures for Hepatitis C exist for treatment-ready patients
- Obstacles may prevent, limit, or slow access
- Advocates exist in many areas
- Patience!