

CER Questions

Patient Populations and Timing of Treatment

- 1. What are safety profile and effectiveness of HCV therapy in specific patient populations, including:**
 - a. Patients co-infected with hepatitis C and HIV
 - b. Racial and ethnic patient populations
 - c. Older age groups
 - d. Infection with different genotypes
 - e. Asymptomatic patients versus those who have fatigue or reduced vitality
 - f. Receive care from safety-net health facilities
 - g. Living in poverty/uninsured
 - h. Living in correctional facilities or under correctional supervision
 - i. People with serious mental illness
 - j. Consume alcohol heavily
 - k. Marijuana users
 - l. People who use noninjected drugs — crystal meth, MDMA, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, pharmaceutical opioids
 - m. People who inject illicit drugs while receiving substance use treatment (eg opioid substitution therapy)
 - n. People who inject illicit drugs and do not receive substance use treatment
 - o. People receiving substance use treatment (eg opioid substitution therapy) who do not currently use illicit drugs
- 2. What are the comparative benefits and harms of treating all patients with HCV infection versus waiting to treat only those patients who show signs of liver disease?**
 - a. What level of severity of liver disease should be used as the basis to indicate beginning antiviral therapy?
- 3. Does treating HCV help in the management of identified comorbidities, e.g. diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease?**
- 4. Can antiviral therapy reduce transmission of hepatitis C?**
 - a. Should an attempt be made to eradicate hepatitis C in IV drug users?
 - b. What interventions can reduce transmission of hepatitis C?