

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 70389

Title: Missed Opportunities for Hepatitis C Treatment at a Tertiary Care Hospital in South Australia

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05742997

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-01

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-16 22:52

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-26 00:53

Review time: 9 Days and 2 Hours

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Re-review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No |
|-------------------------------------|---|

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I would like to congratulate the authors on their manuscript titled 'Missed Opportunities for Hepatitis C Treatment at a Tertiary Care Hospital in South Australia'. This manuscript focuses on the referral of patients with HCV at a tertiary care center. I enjoyed reading this study and the manuscript is overall well written; however, I do have a few comments:

1. Please add an abstract to the manuscript. It is missing from the manuscript file.
2. Please address what 'PBS scheme' means in the introduction/background section. World Journal of Hepatology has a broad readership around the world and the readers may not be familiar with these terms. Please explain region specific terms in the manuscript.
3. How did the authors account for bias within the admitting teams? Differences in training can account for differences in referral rate. Was there a standard protocol in place for referral at the start of the study? Was it a single provider on the teams or were all the providers trained under the same setting? The authors should mention this in the manuscript.
4. It would be interesting to know the reason for low attendance at the GI or ID clinic after the referral? Do the authors have information on this? Of the referred patients, were they all counseled in a similar fashion about their diagnosis and need for referral?
5. The readers would like to know the author's take on referral to a sub-specialist vs primary care provider with respect to commencing treatment for HCV.
6. The readers would like to the deficits in the structure of management, based on the author's findings, and areas which can be improved upon to increase follow-up and treatment for these patients. Identifying the deficits in how these referral are handled from admission to discharge has widespread implications on a global scale and correcting them could significantly improve



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compliance. Adding this would greatly enhance the quality of this manuscript. 7. The authors should expand on the limitation section. This study has numerous limitations which were not addressed in this section. 8. The sample size for the study is too small to draw out definite conclusions. The authors should try to re-frame the study to include a larger sample size.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-01

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-04 12:45

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-04 12:49

Review time: 1 Hour

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Peer-reviewer | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript has been appropriately edited by the authors. I have no further comments.