

UMass Memorial Hepatitis C ECHO

Academic Year 2025

1. Overview

UMass Hepatitis C Project ECHO is a partner of the Project ECHO Institute (University of New Mexico). The goal of Project ECHO is to increase the community's capacity for specialty care by training primary care providers on management of chronic diseases. This training takes place digitally via videoconference platform using a "hub and spoke" model, and overtime through guided practice mentored by an expert team, primary care providers gain proficiency in managing diseases that would have previously been referred out to specialists. The result is that patients receive care in a timely manner at a place where existing provider-patient relationship has already been established. The goal of UMass Hepatitis C ECHO is to train more primary care clinicians on hepatitis C management to meet the growing demand for hepatitis C treaters across the New England region.

2. Structure of ECHO Session

In general, the session follows a prescribed format. At the beginning of each session, the participants are asked to identify themselves which helps people get to know each other over time and feel comfortable talking among peers. This is followed by a short interactive quiz to assess knowledge retention from previous sessions. A brief didactic presentation will be given on the topic of the week, usually lasting no more than 10 minutes. This is followed by case presentations by participants and any relevant discussions.

3. Hub Team Members

Each session is led and facilitated by a core multidisciplinary team:

Curtis Barry MD – UMass Memorial, Transplant Hepatology

Jessica Salerni, DO – UMass Memorial, Family Medicine

Annie Vong PharmD – Atrius Health, Clinical Pharmacist

Andrew Haggerty – UMass Medical School, Librarian

Sandra Girouard – UMass Memorial, Family Medicine, ECHO Coordinator

Susan Foley – UMass Memorial, Family Medicine, ECHO Coordinator

4. Time Commitment

The UMass HCV ECHO is held every other Friday from 12:30pm – 1:30pm. We highly encourage participants to stay for the entire hour to maximize learning. Nevertheless, we understand that sometimes other commitments may require participants to leave early, in which case we recommend that the participants let us know in advance if there are any cases that need to be presented early in the session.

5. Connection Information

At the beginning of the week that we are holding an ECHO session, you will receive an email reminder from Sandra Girouard with the link to join Zoom video conference. The email will also include links for case presentation forms which should be filled out in advance (see expectations below). You do not need any special equipment to join; any digital device with audio visual and wi-fi capabilities should work. We encourage participants to use camera whenever possible so that the group can see each other's faces on screen – this really helps foster a sense of community and familiarity among peers.

6. Register

Please register at https://umassmed.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3gzlme2k5o2uwiG

Curriculum Schedule and Topics

DATE	TOPIC
2/21/25	HCV screening
3/7/25	Acute HCV
3/21/25	Chronic HCV: workup
4/4/25	Treatment of non-cirrhotic patients
4/18/25	Treatment of cirrhotic patients
5/2/25	Monitoring during treatment
5/16/25	Monitoring post treatment
5/30/25	*By request* or COVID-19 and HCV
6/13/25	Other hepatitis in the context of HCV/Hepatitis A&B
6/27/25	Treatment of special populations