

GVN in India

A Pilot Study to Test, link and Treat Hepatitis C Virus patients in India

The purpose of this project is to develop an HCV training model for medical providers in India that can be duplicated and applied to other areas within South Asia. The present project combines the clinical expertise on Hepatitis C treatment of [IHV/UMB](#) investigators with the global reach of the GVN. The clinical team will hold biannual workshops presenting the most recent scientific literature on prevention, care, and treatment, and will supplement this by assisting with an updated national guideline.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major cause of chronic liver disease and is the leading indication for liver transplantation in the US. In the United States, approximately 4.1 million individuals, 1.6% of the population have been infected with HCV. Of the infected persons, approximately half has been tested and the remainder are unaware. Those that have reached medical attention, 16% have been treated, and 9% have been cured of HCV. HCV is a global burden, it is estimated that more than 150 million people are infected with HCV, causing 500,000 yearly deaths related to liver disease. This high prevalence is attribute in part due to poor blood screening and the lack of vaccination for HCV.

New oral, interferon-free directing agents (DAAs), such as Sofosbuvir have emerged as effective HCV treatment and the World Health Organization has recommended its use. Generic medications have been approved and are available in India, but in order to administer these new agents, providers need to be trained for HCV management.

HCV Training Plan for Providers in India

This project focuses in training providers with a task-shifting model. Task-shifting models involves delegation, when appropriate, of tasks from specialists to primary care providers with the goal of successful hepatitis C treatment in India. The new workforce will be trained on established consensus guidelines (hcvguidelines.org), to administer DAA medication for HCV therapy.

India has over 17 manufacturers of the generic medications but the percentage of treated patients is low. This program will allow local providers to care for HCV patients, increasing access to therapy. Further, this program can be scaled on a national level and international level.

The main objective of this training program is to train Indian providers in hepatitis C care and treatment and shift hepatitis C care to experienced community providers in India.

The secondary objectives include an analysis of:

- Numbers of patients tested, diagnosed, evaluated, prescribed, treated, and cured of hepatitis C, and
- Provider HCV knowledge, Provider Self-Efficacy and effectiveness of HCV therapy multiple settings (urban v rural; PWID v community clinic).