


TREATING HEP C IN RURAL KENTUCKY

Dr. John Jones
Medical Director
Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky

THE ROLE OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

1. Institute routine testing for hepatitis C
 2. Link patients to diagnostics, specialists when needed, harm reduction, and MAT
 3. Grade severity of liver disease
 4. Treat hepatitis C
- 

WHAT CAN THE LEGISLATURE DO?

1. Encourage Medicaid to create a quality measure for Medicaid primary care providers to screen routinely for hepatitis C
2. Given the linkage between hepatitis C and the opioid epidemic, allocate opioid settlement funds to expanding testing and HCV treatment
3. Support programs for primary care education in management and treating hepatitis C, like Kentucky Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (KHAMP)
4. Support and expand harm reduction programs through primary care offices
5. Support additional public health funding to identify patients and link patients to care
6. Support removal of Medicaid prior authorization for HCV medications

Thank you!

Q&A

