

Healthcare Provider Interview Guide

“For this interview, I will be asking you some questions about your experiences caring for patients with liver disease. You can skip any questions that you do not want to answer.”

“If you agree, your answers will be recorded using a digital voice recorder. Do you agree to be recorded?”

If yes: “Thank you. Once I start the recording, I will ask you to confirm that you have given your permission to be recorded so that I will have documentation of your agreement.”

If no: “Ok, that’s fine. I will take notes and will not record the interview.”

If the participant agrees to be recorded, start the recording and say:

“Could you please confirm that you agreed to be recorded as part of a research study entitled *Patient centered care for individuals with advanced liver disease*? And that you agreed to answer questions about your usual practices managing patients with advanced liver disease?”

Begin Interview

1. Tell me about your experiences caring for patients with liver disease.

What effect does the severity or stage of liver disease have on your experiences caring for these patients? (probe for examples of care at different stages)

2. What do you think patients and caregivers need to know about liver disease? (probe: disease cause, progression/severity, prognosis and treatment related information)

How is this information currently shared with them?

In your setting, who has the responsibility of sharing that information with patients? (probe for specific persons, staff, disciplines)

3. Based on your experiences, what some common health outcome goals for patients with liver disease? (probe for specific examples).

How do these health outcome goals change as the disease advances?

How do you discuss these health outcome goals with patients and their caregivers?

4. What strategies do you use to elicit patients’ health outcome goals?

What strategies do you use to align a patient’s health outcome goals with their treatment plan? (probe for examples)

What do you do in cases where the patient’s goals do not align with the treatment plan? (probe for examples)

Information Sharing

5. Describe how you share or discuss information with patients and their caregivers about the prognosis for their illness.

6. Describe ways to improve how prognosis and risk information is shared with patients and caregivers. What tools, procedures, or staff could help you share this information?

7. Please look over the example health information we provided.

How is this information valuable or helpful to you?

In what ways is it confusing or unclear?

What could make this information more useful to you?

What other types of similar information would you want?

Do you feel patients and caregivers could understand this information?

Experiences of Care

8. In your opinion, what therapeutic options are considered curative care for liver disease?

What about supportive care?

And palliative care?

What are some examples of patient outcomes that fall into each of these categories of patient care?

9. When in the patient's illness course do you discuss treatment options that are considered curative?

What about supportive?

Palliative?

When do you discuss end of life planning?

-If participant does not have these conversations ask: Who in the healthcare team typically has these conversations? How are they typically done?

10. How well integrated are these different approaches in your current practice? In your view, how would a truly integrated approach to cirrhosis care look?

11. How would you be able to adapt your current practice to allow for a more integrated approach into the normal workflow and routines?

Describe the resources, staff, and leadership you have in your setting and how they can be facilitators for a more integrated approach to cirrhosis care.

Describe the barriers to integrated cirrhosis care. What additional resources are needed?

12. Describe your process for developing the patient's treatment plan for liver disease.

What role do the patient and their caregiver have in this process? (probe for examples)

What tools, resources, or staff are necessary to better engage patients and caregivers in this process?

13. Please take a look at the journey map.

Where in the patient's illness trajectory do you think a more collaborative approach can and should occur?

Where in the patient's illness trajectory would you discuss different types of prognosis data? (probe: what are the different types of prognosis information that is best suited for various times along the illness trajectory?)

Barriers & Facilitators of Advanced Liver Disease Care

14. In your opinion, what would a more collaborative approach to liver disease treatment planning look like?

What skills and resources do you think you would need to facilitate developing a more collaborative treatment plan with the patient and their caregiver?

15. What additional staff or health care professional are needed for a more collaborative model of treatment planning?

How would their roles and responsibilities differ from yours?

16. What would facilitate a more collaborative approach to liver disease treatment planning? (probe: context, procedures, etc)

17. How useful do you think it would be to have decision support tools to assist in conversations with liver disease patients?

What kinds of tools would be most useful?

What is the best way to implement decision support tools into the routine process of liver disease care?