

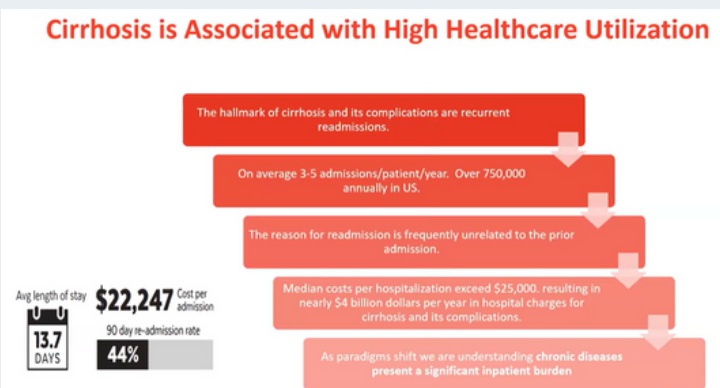
Optimizing in-patient cirrhosis care: Learn 10 quick tips from the experts

Dr. Mayur Brahmania

Key Messages

- Early identification of individuals at risk of liver disease can alter the trajectory of illness
- Cirrhosis care is fragmented and complex. 50% of hospitalized patients do not receive the best quality care.
- Chronic liver disease/Cirrhosis is overtaking Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in admissions and mortality due to lack of national strategies
- To create change we need leadership, vision, networks, influencers, and need to tie them into a financial bottom-line the government cares about!
- Population level interventions affecting thousands of patients are needed most. Use of order sets and best practice alerts improves adherence to quality metrics and may decrease hospital length of stay.

Gaps in Liver Care



Volk ML, Tocco RS, Bazick J, Rakoski MO, Lok AS. Hospital readmissions among patients with decompensated cirrhosis. AmJ Gastroenterol. 2012;107(2):247-52. doi: [10.1038/ajg.2011.314](https://doi.org/10.1038/ajg.2011.314).

Interventions to improve cirrhosis care

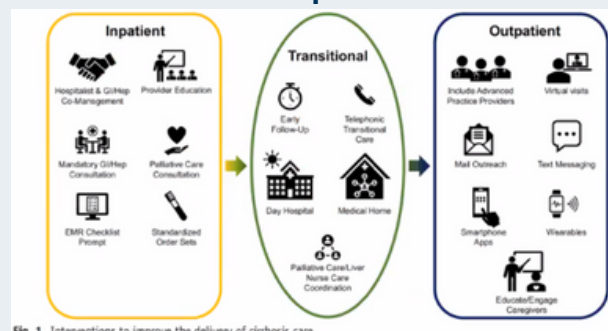
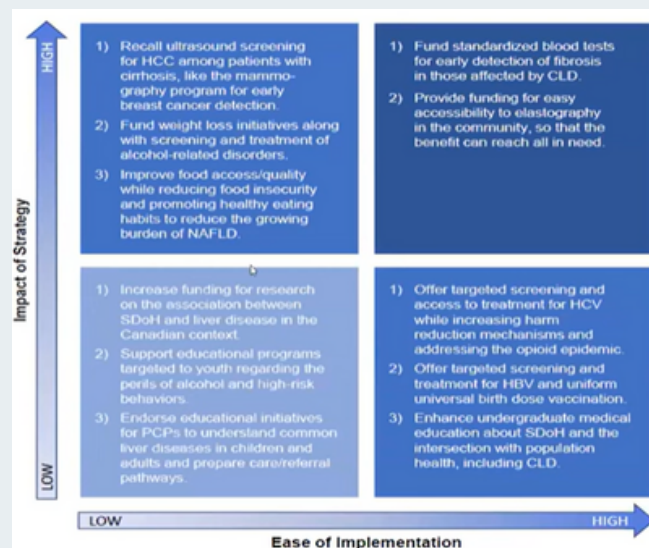
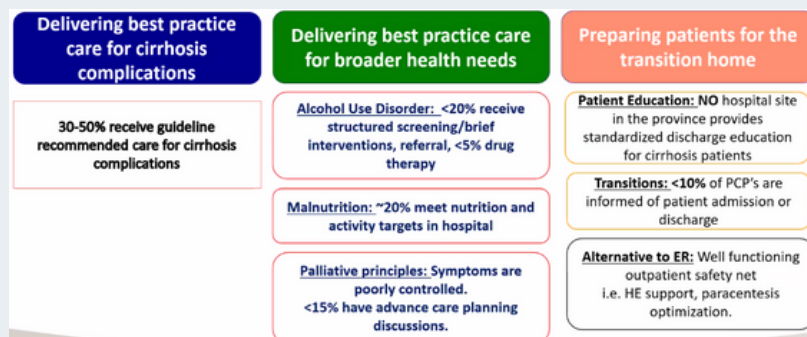


Fig. 1. Interventions to improve the delivery of cirrhosis care

Moghe A, Yakovchenko V, Morgan T, McCurdy H, Scott D, Rozenberg-Ben-Dror K, Rogal S. Strategies to improve delivery of cirrhosis care. Curr Treat Options Gastroenterol. 2021;19(2):369-79. doi: [10.1007/s11938-021-00345-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11938-021-00345-y).



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Kanwal F, Volk M, Singal A, Angeli P, Talwalkar J. Improving quality of health care for patients with cirrhosis. Gastroenterology. 2014;147(6):1204-7. doi: [10.1053/j.gastro.2014.10.029](https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2014.10.029).

- The Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) Primary Care Pathway pathway can be used by primary care providers to identify, risk stratify patients to determine whether referral
- Best practice alerts have been shown to reduce readmission rates, and lengths of stay
- Cirrhosis Order sets can improve outcomes.

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Cirrhosis Summary Tool

- The Cirrhosis Summary Tool simplifies and **helps standardize care** to help you deliver the best outcomes with less effort while aligning provincial evidence and standards
- The tools were built to **reduce cognitive load, support decision making, and improve care without adding burden**
- One-screen dashboard with access to labs, medications, complications, and trends
- Using the same tools at every visit creates consistency and reduces guesswork.
- The Cirrhosis Summary tool is **embedded in ConnectCare** so the information is shared across the care team.
- You will receive real time alerts to reduce missed care opportunities
- Using the same tools at every visit results in consistency and reduces guesswork
- Find clinical pearls integrated with tools such as alerts, ordering links, and guidance



Fewer clicks



Better documentation



Smoother handover

A. Hepatic Encephalopathy

Pearl: Rifaximin + lactulose reduces recurrence.

Tool: Alerts, ordering links, stool charting, lab trends.

B. Ascites

Pearl: Early paracentesis improves outcomes.

Tool: Order within 12 hours, diuretic guidance.

C. SBP

Pearl: Early antibiotics save lives.

Tool: Alerts for initiation and prophylaxis.

D. Variceal Bleed

Pearl: Early antibiotics and beta blockers.

Tool: Octreotide, prophylaxis prompts.

E. Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis

Pearl: Steroids guided by Maddrey; nutrition is key.

Tool: Lille Score display, steroid guidance.



Better decisions, faster.

Resources and Additional References

- **Cirrhosis Care Alberta** - Provides essential knowledge about liver cirrhosis. Offers expert insights, and support for both patients and care providers
- Tapper EB, Warner MA, Shah RP, Emamaullee J, Dunbar NM, Sholzberg M, et al. Management of coagulopathy among patients with cirrhosis undergoing upper endoscopy and paracentesis: Persistent gaps and areas of consensus in a multispecialty Delphi. Hepatology. 2024;80(2):488-99. doi: [10.1097/HEP.0000000000000856](https://doi.org/10.1097/HEP.0000000000000856).
- Bhavsar-Burke I, Guardiola JJ, Hamade N, Gerke S, Burke SM, Merrill K, et al. Use of a cirrhosis admission order set improves adherence to quality metrics and may decrease hospital length of stay. AM J Gastroenterol. 2023;118(1):114-20. doi: [10.14309/ajg.0000000000001930](https://doi.org/10.14309/ajg.0000000000001930).
- Asrani SK, Hall L, Hagan M, Sharma S, Yermaneni S, Trotter J, et al. Trends in chronic liver disease-related hospitalizations: A population based study. Am J Gastroenterol. 2019;114(1):9-106. doi: [10.1038/s41395-018-0365-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41395-018-0365-4).
- Government of Canada SC. Leading causes of death, total population, by age group [Internet]. 2022 Aug 27. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310039401>



We need your feedback about the Best Practice Alerts/Cirrhosis Summary Tool!

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Consider using **MyL3Plan**, a free online tool developed by the Office of Lifelong Learning (L3) that can be used to meet and support the 3 activities/action plans required by the PPIP-CPSA and earn up to 36 Mainpro+ certified credits.

[Learn more here!](#)