

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

FEB 24 2016

Memorandum

Date:

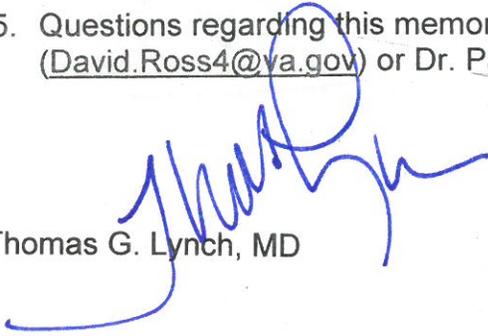
From: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations (10NC)
Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services (10P4)

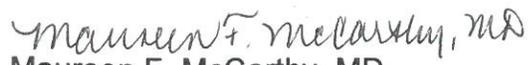
Subj: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Funding and Prioritization Status Update

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

Thru: Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

1. In follow up to the January 27, 2016, memorandum from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, this memorandum provides updated information regarding HCV funding and prioritization. Please share this memorandum expeditiously with facility leadership and Chiefs of Pharmacy.
2. Expansion of eligibility for HCV treatment within VA:
 - a. Effective immediately, for the rest of FY 2016, all Veterans with HCV may receive treatment within VA facilities without regard to stage of liver disease; the use of the prioritization protocol to determine eligibility for treatment within VA is no longer in effect. We have received funding from Congress to support a more aggressive roll-out for treatment of Veterans who are infected with HCV.
 - b. Even though we are not limiting treatments, facilities should manage resources to ensure that patients with more advanced disease receive treatment as soon as possible and continue outreach to such patients to offer them treatment.
 - c. Facility managers should take immediate steps to ramp up treatment to the maximum possible capacity. Managers should ensure that adequate clinical resources (staffing, clinical pharmacists, laboratory testing, psychosocial support, etc.) are allocated to clinics providing HCV treatment to allow full utilization of funding for HCV treatment.
3. At this time, funding for HCV treatment may only be used for drug acquisition. We have not received additional funding for staffing or laboratory testing.
4. Veterans who have been offered HCV treatment through Choice but have not yet seen a Choice HCV provider may elect, at the Veteran's discretion, to receive treatment at a VA facility or to continue the referral to a Choice HCV provider.
5. Questions regarding this memorandum should be sent to Dr. David Ross (David.Ross4@va.gov) or Dr. Pam Belperio (Pamela.Belperio@va.gov).


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