



► SHIELDS OUTCOMES

# Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person. The virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness.<sup>1</sup>

## TREATMENT

HCV infection is treated with antiviral medications intended to clear the virus from the body. These antiviral medications are highly effective and cure on average 95% of patients after 8-12 weeks of treatment.<sup>2,3</sup>



**Goal of therapy:** The goal of treatment is to prevent the progression of the disease and achieve sustained viral response (SVR), meaning that the virus is no longer detectable in the blood 12 weeks after the patient completed treatment. SVR is a marker of the cure for Hepatitis C.<sup>4</sup>

**Why SVR matters:** Chronic Hepatitis C can be serious, resulting in long-term health complications, including liver damage or failure, cancer, cirrhosis, or even death. Achieving SVR is not only important in reducing the risk of these long-term health problems, but it is also key in helping to stop the spread of the virus.<sup>4</sup>

## 3 Common Barriers to the Treatment & Management of Hepatitis C

- 1** Poor awareness and education of Hepatitis C and treatment options
- 2** Lack of adherence to treatment and appointment follow-ups
- 3** High economic pressures such as medication costs and lack of insurance

2.4  
MILLION  
WITH HEP C  
IN THE U.S.<sup>4</sup>



Breaking Down Barriers to Care


## OUR SHIELDS CARE MODEL



Financial assistance patients have accessed with Shields' guidance



Percentage of Shields patients that complete therapy.



Emotional and educational support provided to patients and their families.



Shields Hepatitis C Specialists

5,600

Patients with HCV infection with access to the Shields Care Model

# Hepatitis C

**OUR PROVEN CARE MODEL BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS TO CARE TO OPTIMIZE PATIENT OUTCOMES.**

To help patients achieve SVR, Shields Health Solutions' dedicated clinical team of pharmacists, liaisons and patient support advocates engage patients and their families to help educate, coordinate care and ensure patients receive specialty medication without significant delays.

**ENGAGE**

Our team engages with patients at the clinic and through telehealth appointments to educate them on the importance of therapy adherence and completing routine lab work.

**INTERVENE**

We provide side effect mitigation tactics, monitor for drug interactions, and analyze lab results to optimize medication therapy.

**COORDINATE**

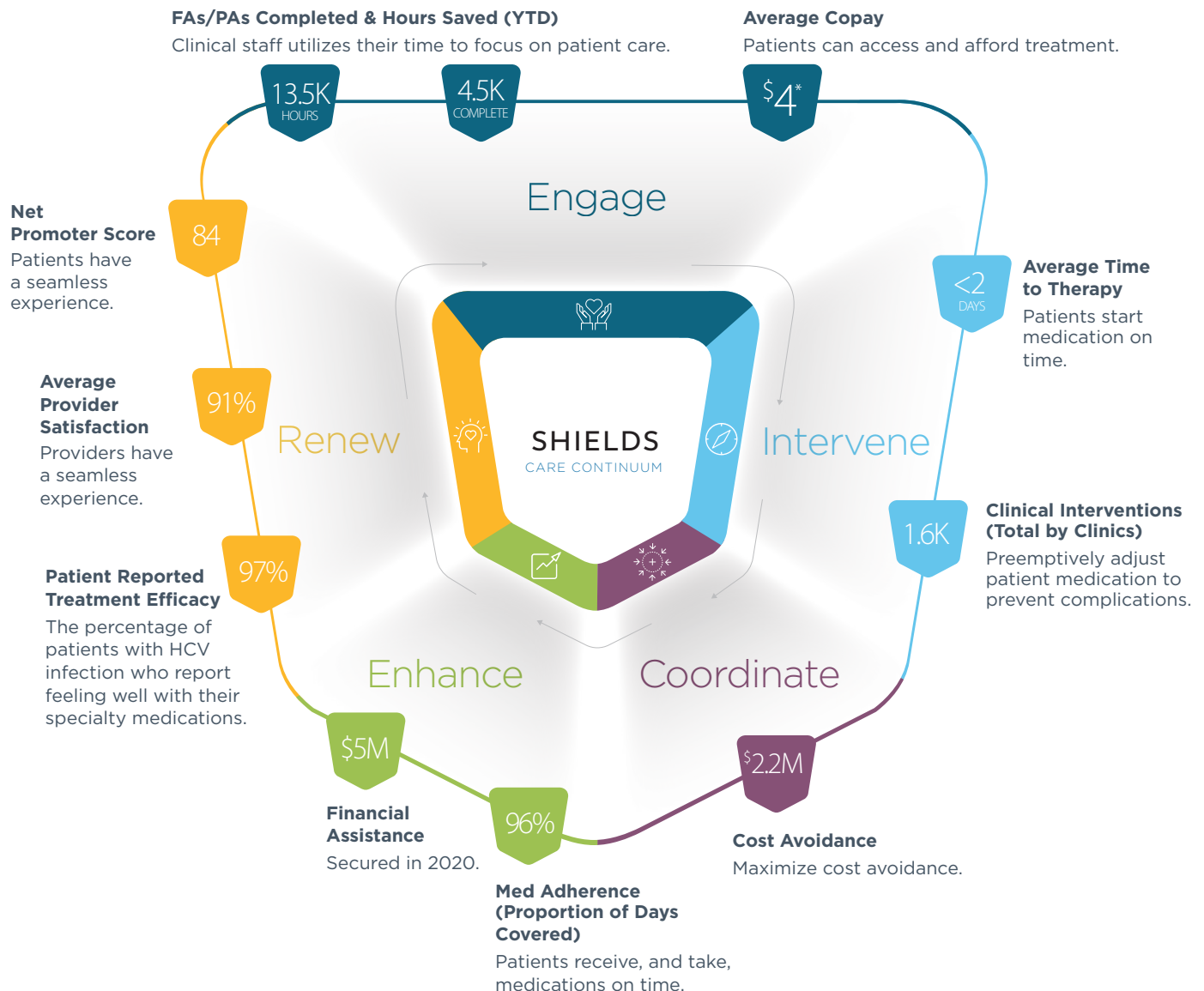
Our team investigates patient insurance benefits, completes prior authorizations and identifies financial assistance opportunities so patients and providers can focus on their health, not paperwork.

**ENHANCE**

Through pharmacist, liaison and other interventions, our team can enhance patient care, provide emotional support, and help educate and coordinate care.

**RENEW**

Our experts provide ongoing education, stressing the importance of risk-reducing behaviors to help achieve SVR upon completion of therapy.



<sup>1</sup> Hepatitis C Information. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated July 28, 2020. Accessed April 7, 2021 <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Hepatitis C. The World Health Organization. Updated July 27, 2020. Accessed April 7, 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c>

<sup>4</sup> When and in Whom to Initiate HCV Therapy. The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Updated Nov 6, 2019. Accessed April 7, 2021 <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/evaluate/when-whom>

\* \$ represents 85th percentile in 2020