The U.S. Opioid Epidemic & Liver Disease

Opioid Use
- The epidemic is growing
- Emergency visits for suspected opioid overdose rose by 30% in the U.S. from 2016 - 2017
- Opioids are responsible for approximately 2/3 of overdose-related deaths
- 115 Americans die each day from opioid overdoses

Injection-driven Hepatitis C
- Opioid addiction can lead to injection drug use
- Shared needles can transmit HCV+ blood
- HCV is 5x more infectious than HIV
- Left untreated majority progress to a chronic infection
- From 2004-2014, Hepatitis C rates rose 400% in young adults

Liver Disease
- Individuals cured of HCV and those with chronic HCV have a 50% higher risk of developing Fatty Liver Disease
- Fatty Liver Disease is indicated by an accumulation of fat that makes up more than 5% of the liver
- HCV and NAFLD are among the leading causes of liver cancer
- Liver cancer is one of the only cancers with increasing incidence in the U.S.
- If left untreated, HCV, NAFLD, and liver cancer can all lead the need for a liver transplant