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time has come to shine a spotlight on cirrhosis. Termed a ‘crisis in the making’, it is estimated that rates of advanced liver disease will rise by more than 150% within the next 10 years! In the current state, four out of 10 Albertans with cirrhosis who are admitted to hospital are re-admitted within 90 days, the highest of any chronic disease. To explain why this may be, we’ve identified multiple gaps which our interdisciplinary team of experts will systematically address over the next 3 years. It is our vision to improve the patient/family and provider experience, ensure that patients receive quality care and ensure that they receive the support they need to remain

safe at home within their communities, requiring less time in hospital,” said Dr. Puneeta Tandon, Project Lead. The program will strive to deliver integrated, best practice services for medical and broader health needs to patients with advanced liver disease (cirrhosis). In addition to best practice support, care will include strategies to improve home-hospital-home transitions, all of which have been associated with improving care and reducing hospital readmissions.

Patients will be identified at the time of admission in eight participating hospitals throughout Alberta over the next three years. Overall, the project will aim to improve outcomes for patients, families, providers and the health system by supporting appropriate care in the community in an integrated, collaborative, and systematic way. “I suffered from advanced liver disease – and many of its painful symptoms – for a prolonged and stressful time. If I’d had online resources I could access, and a

knowledgeable person I could talk to about my pain and fear, it would have made my journey to survival so much easier,” said Derek Drager, Patient Lead. “My goal as patient advisor is to make that journey more bearable for others. Knowledge, empathy and coping strategies – these are three key ingredients I hope we can provide for all Albertans suffering the awful effects of liver disease.”

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This is an exciting opportunity for acute, community and primary care teams to work collaboratively. Stay tuned over the next three years, as we look forward to providing updates on the project as it progresses, and sharing our findings. For information related to the project, please contact [Michelle.Carbonneau@ahs.ca](mailto:Michelle.Carbonneau@ahs.ca) or contact the [digestivehealth.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:digestivehealth.scn@ahs.ca).