



The Transplant Hepatologist

SPECIALIZED MEDICAL LEADERSHIP IN LIVER HEALTH

Expert Medical Care for Complex Liver Disease

A transplant hepatologist is a specialized physician with advanced fellowship training in gastroenterology and advanced liver disease. They serve as the medical captain of the transplant team, guiding patients from initial diagnosis and cirrhosis management through transplantation and lifelong post-operative care.

1. Advanced Disease Management

- **Cirrhosis Care:** Manages complex complications such as ascites, hepatic encephalopathy, variceal bleeding, and infections.
- **Disease Staging:** Monitors liver function deterioration and evaluates viral, autoimmune, and metabolic causes.
- **Quality of Life:** Focuses on symptom alleviation and nutritional optimization prior to surgery.

2. Evaluation & Listing Candidacy

- **Comprehensive Workup:** Directs thorough diagnostic evaluations (cardiac, renal, oncologic, and infectious screenings).
- **MELD Monitoring:** Tracks laboratory values to determine MELD/PELD scores for organ allocation priority.
- **Selection Committee:** Leads the multidisciplinary team in deciding candidate approval.

3. Waitlist & Bridge Care

- **Ongoing Surveillance:** Schedules routine HCC tumor screenings and follow-up lab monitoring.
- **Acute Stabilization:** Treats sudden clinical declines while patients await an organ offer.
- **Care Coordination:** Partners closely with coordinators, surgeons, and social workers.

4. Lifelong Post-Transplant Care

- **Immunosuppression:** Manages precise anti-rejection drug regimens to protect the new liver graft.
- **Graft Surveillance:** Screens routinely for rejection, infection, or recurrence of primary liver disease.
- **Long-Term Wellness:** Safeguards overall metabolic health and cardiovascular wellness.

THE HEPATOLOGIST VS. GENERAL GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Medical Focus	Transplant Hepatology Specialization
Advanced Training	Completed dedicated fellowship training specifically focused on end-stage liver failure, liver transplantation, and critical care hepatology.
Transplant Expertise	Directly manages UNOS listing criteria, organ allocation policies, surgical timing, and lifelong post-transplant immunosuppression.