

## FM REVIEW 2014 16 COMMENTS

This essay describes a patient who ultimately dies from liver cirrhosis (and possible hepatic malignancy) associated with Hepatitis C. In her "last medical wishes," the patient states that she wished she was tested sooner for Hep C; and says she would not have consumed so much alcohol if she had been aware of her medical condition. The author, who provided primary care to the patient intermittently over several years, uses the patient's experience to strengthen his commitment to screening, particularly in target populations.

Unfortunately, despite the author's obvious concern to improve care of patients ignorant of their Hep C status, I feel this is an extremely weak essay. Although the author alludes to the capacity to change "patients' life stories" through screening, there is very little in the essay that is truly narrative. It is more like a case report. You have little sense of the patient, despite her tragic circumstances, and no sense at all of the author. The essay is primarily focused on medical issues which, while of utmost importance, do not tell a story or provide insight. We could suggest "reject and resubmit" but I think there is insufficient evidence in this essay to suggest that the author has the capacity to write an engaging, moving, and thought-provoking narrative.