

PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FATTY LIVER FOUNDATION URGES WIDER ADOPTION OF SCREENING ON GLOBAL FATTY LIVER DAY AS DISEASE AFFECTS 1 IN 3 ADULTS WORLDWIDE

*Screening guidelines exist but remain largely unimplemented in primary care —
Foundation advocates for early identification of asymptomatic disease*

June 10, 2026; Boise, IDAHO — On Global Fatty Liver Day, the Fatty Liver Foundation (FLF) is urging widespread adoption of screening guidelines for metabolic liver disease, warning that a critical gap between published protocols and real-world practice is leaving millions of patients undiagnosed.

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), formerly known as NAFLD (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease), affects approximately 1 in 3 adults worldwide, more than one billion people. In 2023, the global hepatology community renamed NAFLD and NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) to MASLD and MASH (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis) to reflect the metabolic basis of the disease and remove the term "fatty," which contributed to patient stigma and clinical under-recognition. The disease is asymptomatic in its early stages. In 2026, the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) published updated guidance establishing a two-tier screening pathway, a FIB-4 blood test in primary care followed by liver stiffness measurement for high-risk patients, but the protocol has not yet been widely adopted.

Wayne Eskridge, Co-Founder and CEO of FLF, who has lived with NASH cirrhosis for over 15 years, emphasized the urgency of closing the gap between guidance and bedside practice.

"The screening protocol exists on paper, but it hasn't reached the exam room," said Eskridge. "We now have FDA-approved treatments that can intervene before cirrhosis, but they only work for people who have been found and staged. If you're never screened, you never get that chance. I know, because I'm on the other side of that line."

Treatments Without a Pathway to Patients

There are now two FDA-approved treatments specifically indicated for adults with non-cirrhotic MASH and moderate to advanced liver fibrosis (stages F2 to F3), before cirrhosis develops. Resmetirom (Rezdiffra™) was approved in March 2024, followed by the accelerated approval of semaglutide (Wegovy®) in August 2025 as the first GLP-1 receptor agonist approved for MASH.

However, these breakthrough treatments require that patients first be diagnosed and their fibrosis staged, steps that depend on screening tools such as liver stiffness measurement (e.g., FibroScan®) that are not part of standard annual physicals or routine bloodwork.

The Screening Adoption Gap

- 1 in 3 adults worldwide has MASLD
- Approximately 25 percent of MASLD patients will develop MASH, the inflammatory form that causes liver scarring
- AGA 2026 guidance establishes a two-tier screening pathway (FIB-4, then liver stiffness measurement), but it is not yet part of routine primary care
- Two FDA-approved treatments for MASH are available, but only for patients who have been diagnosed and staged

FLF Advocacy and the Care Survey

FLF advocates for widespread adoption of existing screening guidelines, modeled on the integration of routine screening for diabetes, cholesterol, and hypertension into primary care. FLF maintains that voluntary screenings at community health events, while valuable, cannot substitute for systematic, routine early identification of asymptomatic disease.

FLF's annual The State of Steatotic Liver Care in America Survey documents the lived patient experience of liver disease across the country, generating data used in advocacy with policy makers, insurers, and clinical guideline committees.

“Fatty liver disease is the most common liver condition in the world, and most people who have it don't know,” said Henry E. Chang, Executive Director of FLF. “Global Fatty Liver Day is about closing that gap. The Fatty Liver Foundation is committed to making sure no one progresses to cirrhosis simply because they were never tested.”

About the Fatty Liver Foundation

The Fatty Liver Foundation is a national nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and support of people living with steatotic liver disease, including MASLD, MASH, and alcohol associated liver disease. Through awareness, screening, education, and advocacy, FLF works to ensure that individuals affected by liver disease can access the care, information, and support they need to live well with their condition.

Media Contact

Henry E. Chang
Executive Director
Fatty Liver Foundation
Mobile: +1 917-400-8900
Email: henry@fattyLiverFoundation.org

###