

# Hepatitis C Treatment

## Information for patients

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This information is written to provide information about the supply of hepatitis C medicines.

### What will my treatment be?

Treatment for hepatitis C differs for each person depending on their individual clinical circumstances.

Oral (tablet) antiviral medicines will be supplied to you from your community pharmacy (your local chemist). You will be asked to choose a community pharmacy that is convenient for you to get these medicines from.

The specialist clinic team will contact the community pharmacy for you to confirm they are able to supply the medicine and agree a start date and organise prescriptions. This can take up to 3 weeks.

The specialist team will provide information to help the community pharmacy provide safe and effective treatment for you. The community pharmacy will give you the medicines in instalments according to your individual needs.

### What will happen at the community pharmacy?

When you go to your community pharmacy to collect your medicine, you can show this information sheet to the staff to help them locate your medicines.

The community pharmacist will make sure you know how to take your medicine and you can ask them about any problems you are having. They may ask to have a brief consultation with you in a separate room to make sure privacy is maintained.

All staff in a community pharmacy work to the same professional standards as staff in the clinic and therefore will treat all information in a confidential way. The community pharmacist can contact the clinic team if there are any ongoing problems that require specialist advice.

Ideally your prescription for hepatitis C medicines should remain at the same pharmacy for the whole treatment course. Please let your clinic nurse know as soon as possible if you need to change pharmacy during treatment.

### Will there be any side-effects?

The side-effects are mild and infrequent. The most common are headache, fatigue and mild nausea.

For specific information, see the leaflet included in the packet with your medicine.

If you have any concerns, you can discuss these with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

### When will I be seen once my treatment starts?

You will continue to attend the specialist clinic for monitoring and you will be advised when blood tests are needed and when your next appointment will be. It is really important that you attend these appointments.

## Your responsibilities

It is really important to take these medicines as recommended and to keep them safe at all times. Any missed or lost doses may not be replaced and this could affect the success of treatment. Please contact the nurse at the clinic if you are unsure of what to do. Please make sure you provide your current contact details for the nurse at clinic.

## What if I start any new medicines?

It is important to make sure your doctor, GP, nurse or pharmacist are aware of any medicines you take to ensure they are safe to take with your prescribed Hepatitis C medication. Hepatitis C medications can interact with the following:

- Prescribed medications
- Over-the-counter medications that you buy yourself
- Antacid medications for indigestion
- Contraceptive medications (such as 'the pill')
- Recreational and illegal drugs
- Herbal and natural medications
- Muscle-building supplements
- Anaesthetic agents.

If you start any new medicines please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist so they can check they are safe to take with your antiviral medication.

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## Dear Community Pharmacist

I am a patient attending specialist clinic and I would like to collect my antiviral medicines.

## Any queries?

### Contact Clinical Nurse Practitioner:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Or:

**Specialist Pharmacist: 0131 537 3755**

