

## **Epclusa® (Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir) & Ribavirin Information Packet**

**Family Medicine Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you are considering hepatitis C treatment, please read this treatment agreement carefully and be sure to ask any questions you may have before you begin treatment.

The FDA approved sofosbuvir combined with velpatasvir in one tablet (Epclusa®) for the treatment of hepatitis C genotypes 1-6. In some circumstances, it has been found that the treatment works better when given with ribavirin.

### **PREGNANCY & BREASTFEEDING WARNING**

Ribavirin can harm an unborn child or breastfeeding infant. A woman must not get pregnant and a man must not father a child while taking ribavirin and for 6 months after treatment. You must **use 2 forms of birth control** when you take ribavirin and for 6 months after your last dose.

#### **Acceptable Birth Control Methods:**

- Birth control pills or other hormone containing birth control
- Male or female condom
- Spermicides (creams, films, foams, gels, and/or suppositories)
- Diaphragm or cervical cap
- Intrauterine device (IUD), Today® vaginal sponge

#### **Unacceptable Birth Control Methods:**

- Rhythm method or withdrawal

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

You must let your medical, mental health, dental providers, and pharmacist(s) know that you are taking Epclusa® & ribavirin prior to starting any new medications. You must let your providers know about any new medications you are prescribed before starting them. This includes vitamins and other supplements.

If you have ever had hepatitis B infection, the virus could become active again during or after taking Epclusa® & ribavirin. You will have blood tests to check for hepatitis B infection before starting treatment (HBsAg, HBcAb). If you have hepatitis B or are HBcAb or HBsAg positive you will have HBV DNA levels checked before and while on treatment.

### **HOW THE TREATMENT PROCESS WORKS**

You will have an appointment 2 weeks after treatment start and then monthly while you are taking the medication.

- At each visit blood will be collected.
- A pregnancy test will be done monthly for female patients of childbearing potential. If you are a woman and your treatment includes ribavirin it is recommended that you

continue monthly home pregnancy testing for 6 months after treatment and notify your healthcare provider if you become pregnant. Female partners of males whose treatment includes ribavirin should do a monthly home pregnancy test during treatment and for 6 months after treatment completion and notify their health care provider if they become pregnant.

- Random drug and alcohol tests may be requested.
- Other tests may be done during the treatment if your provider feels there is a need.

Three months after completing treatment you will have an appointment to test for cure of hepatitis C.

### **IF YOU HAVE ADVANCED FIBROSIS OR CIRRHOSIS**

- **You should continue to have a liver ultrasound and alpha fetoprotein (AFP) cancer screening blood test every six months.**

### **Provider, select the appropriate treatment regimen:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Genotype 3 with compensated cirrhosis with pre-treatment NS5A resistance associated polymorphisms, Eplclusa® & weight-based ribavirin (consider low initial dose [600 mg] and increase as tolerated) will be given for 12 weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ Genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh Class B or C), Eplclusa® & weight-based ribavirin (consider low initial dose [600 mg] and increase as tolerated) will be given for 12 weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ Genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh Class B or C) and a history of past treatment failure with sofosbuvir- or NS5A-based treatment, Eplclusa® & low initial dose ribavirin (600 mg, increase as tolerated) will be given for 24 weeks.

### **TREATMENT MEDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS**

**Eplclusa®** is a fixed-dose combination tablet containing sofosbuvir 400mg and velpatasvir 100mg. You will take Eplclusa® once daily by mouth with or without food. Store the medication at room temperature. If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember the same day. Do not take more than 1 tablet of Eplclusa® in a day. Take your next dose at your regular time the next day.

- **The most common side effects in clinical trials were headache (22%) and feeling tired/fatigue (15%).**

Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following medicines, as they are not recommended to be used with Epclusa® (this list is not all inclusive, medicines that are P-gp inducers and/or moderate to potent inducers of CYP2B6, CYP2C8, or CYP3A4 are not recommended):

- Co-administration of proton-pump inhibitors (once daily medications for indigestion, heartburn, or stomach ulcers) is not recommended. If medically necessary omeprazole (Prilosec®) no more than 20 mg daily is okay taken 4 hours after Epclusa®. In this case, Epclusa® should be taken with food. Esomeprazole (Nexium®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®), and pantoprazole (Protonix®) have not been studied with Epclusa®.
- Amiodarone (Cordarone®, Nexterone®, Pacerone®). [Provider note: If there is no alternative treatment option refer to full prescribing information and counsel patients about risk of symptomatic bradycardia (near-fainting, fainting, dizziness or lightheadedness, extreme tiredness, weakness, excessive tiredness, shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, or memory problems)].
- Carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
- Efavirenz (ATRIPLA®)
- Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®, Oxtellar XR®); Phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®); Phenobarbital (Luminal®); Primidone (Mysoline®)
- Rifabutin (Mycobutin®); Rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®); Rifapentine (Priftin®)
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum) or a product that contains St. John's wort
- Tipranavir (Aptivus®) used in combination with ritonavir (Norvir®)
- Topotecan (Hycamtin®)

Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following medicines, as they require dose adjustment and/or monitoring:

- An antacid that contains aluminum or magnesium hydroxide (such as Roloids®, Maalox® and Mylanta®) must be taken 4 hours before or 4 hours after you take Epclusa®.
- Twice daily medicine for indigestion, heartburn, or stomach ulcers must be taken at the same time or 12 hours apart from Epclusa®. Famotidine (Pepcid AC®) no more than 40 mg twice daily is okay. Nizatidine (Axid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), and ranitidine (Zantac®) have not been studied with Epclusa®.
- Digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- Regimens containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (DF) (ATRIPLA®, COMPLERA®, STRIBILD®, TRUVADA®, VIREAD®)
- Rosuvastatin (Crestor®) Do not exceed 10mg. Monitor for myopathy and rhabdomyolysis.

- Atorvastatin (Lipitor®) Monitor for myopathy and rhabdomyolysis.
- Warfarin (Coumadin®) Fluctuations of INR values may occur. Frequent monitoring of INR during and post-treatment is recommended.

**Ribavirin** is a 200mg capsule or tablet. You will take ribavirin pills twice daily by mouth with food (dose is based on your weight). Ribavirin dose may be adjusted based on your tolerance of this medication. You should not miss/skip taking any pills. A common side effect is anemia. Anemia is a condition where the blood has a decreased number of red blood cells. This occurs more often in older persons taking ribavirin. Anemia can be serious in patients who have kidney problems. In patients who have coronary artery disease (narrowing of the blood vessels in the heart), anemia may make the problem worse, leading to chest pain or heart attack. If your provider believes you may have coronary artery disease, you will be tested for this and excluded from treatment if it is serious.

- Other common side effects include: headache, trouble sleeping, nausea, vomiting, weakness or lack of energy, shortness of breath, loss of appetite, itching, cough, muscle pain, swelling and pain in your joints (gout), depression, nervousness, and dizziness.
- Studies in animals have shown when ribavirin is given to pregnant females, death of the developing embryo or birth of deformed baby animals may result. It is expected that similar results as seen in the animal studies could occur in humans.

### **BENEFITS OF TREATMENT**

If you have no hepatitis C in your blood 12 weeks **after** the end of treatment, you are cured. Your chance of cure depends on the hepatitis C genotype, how much virus you have in your blood at the beginning of treatment, any past treatment response, how much liver damage you have had prior to treatment, and taking the medication every day.

It is possible that you may develop some serious side effects, which will require you to stop the treatment. You may still benefit from treatment even if it does not get rid of your hepatitis C, as it may slow down the disease.

### **In Clinical Trials:**

The overall treatment response (cure) rate for Epclusa® and ribavirin given for 12 weeks was 94% for persons with hepatitis C genotypes 1, 2, 3, and 4 (no persons with genotype 5, 1 person with genotype 6) with decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B or C) who were never treated before or were treated in the past with peginterferon and ribavirin with or without a protease inhibitor (ASTRAL-4).

Persons with genotype 1a had a 94% (51/54) response rate; those with genotype 1b had a 100% (14/14) response rate.

Persons with genotype 2 had a 100% (4/4) response rate.

Persons with genotype 3 had an 85% (11/13) response rate.

Persons with genotype 4 had a 100% (2/2) response rate.

Persons with genotype 3 with pretreatment Y93H resistance associated polymorphisms (RAPs) treated for 12 weeks with Epclusa® had an 80% response rate. Those with compensated cirrhosis and pretreatment RAPs had a 67% response rate. It is expected that the sustained virologic response rate will improve with the addition of ribavirin.

Epclusa plus ribavirin was given for 24 weeks to patients with and without compensated cirrhosis who previously failed treatment with sofosbuvir plus an NS5A inhibitor with a response rate of 97% in persons with genotype 1, 93% in persons with genotype 2, and 78% in those with genotype 3. Based on these results, Epclusa with ribavirin is recommended for 24 weeks for persons with decompensated cirrhosis who previously failed treatment with sofosbuvir plus an NS5A inhibitor.

**To take care of your liver and prevent the spread of hepatitis C**

- Do not share needles or other drug works, toothbrushes, razors, or nail clippers.
- Cover cuts to prevent blood exposure.
- Only get a tattoo if the equipment and ink used is sterile (such as at a commercial, regulated tattoo studio).
- Practice safe sex.
- Do not drink alcohol or use drugs because these hurt the liver.

**WHOM TO CALL** If you have any questions, contact your primary care provider.

## **Epclusa® & Ribavirin Treatment Medications**

You will be taking the following medications:

### **1. Epclusa® (sofosbuvir 400mg/velpatasvir 100mg)**

Take ONE tablet by mouth daily, with or without food.

- An antacid that contains aluminum or magnesium hydroxide (such as Roloids®, Maalox® and Mylanta®) must be taken 4 hours before or 4 hours after you take Epclusa®.
- Twice daily medicine for indigestion, heartburn, or stomach ulcers must be taken at the same time or 12 hours apart from Epclusa®. Famotidine (Pepcid AC®) no more than 40 mg twice daily is okay. Nizatidine (Axid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), and ranitidine (Zantac®) have not been studied with Epclusa®.
- Once daily medications for indigestion, heartburn, or stomach ulcers must be taken 4 hours after Epclusa®. In this case, Epclusa® should be taken with food. Omeprazole (Prilosec®) no more than 20 mg daily is okay. Esomeprazole (Nexium®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®), and pantoprazole (Protonix®) have not been studied with Epclusa®.
- Do not take supplements or tea containing St. John's wort while taking Epclusa®.

### **2. Ribavirin 200mg capsules**

Take \_\_\_\_ capsules in the morning **with food** and \_\_\_\_ capsules in the evening **with food**. The earlier in the evening you take ribavirin, the less likely you will have sleep problems.

Pick up refills for **Epclusa®** & **Ribavirin** after monthly appointments.

**\*\*For any emergencies after normal business hours, please go to the Emergency Room. Make sure any healthcare provider you see knows you are on treatment. Carry a list of your medicines with you.**

For more information on managing side effects visit our website at <http://anthc.org/hep>