



## Hepatitis C Retreatment

### **Why do I need retreatment?**

You completed a course of treatment for hepatitis C but did not achieve a sustained virologic response (SVR) or “cure”.

### **Why should I take treatment again?**

With a different medication many people can achieve an SVR (cure) even after previous treatment failed.

The medication you take and your chance of being cured (achieving an SVR) depends on these factors: your previous treatment, the amount of liver damage, and if the virus has any resistance to the medications. Regardless of these factors, overall your chance of achieving an SVR with retreatment is 90% or better.

Most persons can be treated with one of the following medications. You and your provider will determine which treatment is best for you.

### **Which medication will I take?**

- **Epclusa<sup>®</sup>** (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 or 24 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (22%) and feeling tired (15%). Persons with more severe liver disease will also take ribavirin. Additional side effects of ribavirin are listed below.
- **Harvoni<sup>®</sup>** (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 or 24 weeks. The most common side effects are feeling tired (16%) and headache (14%). Persons with more severe liver disease will also take ribavirin. Additional side effects of ribavirin are listed below.
- **Mavyret<sup>™</sup>** (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), 3 tablets taken once daily with food for 12 or 16 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (18%) and fatigue (15%). Mavyret can only be taken if you have mild liver disease.
- **Vosevi<sup>®</sup>** (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir), 1 tablet once a day with food for 12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (22%), fatigue (18%), diarrhea (14%), and nausea (13%). Vosevi can only be taken if you have mild liver disease.
- **Zepatier<sup>®</sup>** (elbasvir/grazoprevir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 or 16 weeks. The most common side effects include fatigue (11%), nausea (11%) and headache (11%). Zepatier can only be taken if you have mild liver disease.

There are no studies on the new HCV drugs in pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers. Safety/risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding has not been established.

Ribavirin requires 2 - 6 additional tablets divided between morning and evening with food. The major side effects are feeling tired, nausea, itching and skin rash, trouble sleeping, irritability and weakness. A common side effect of ribavirin is anemia.

**PLEASE NOTE: Ribavirin cannot be given to a pregnant or breastfeeding female or to a female who plans to become pregnant or a male who plans to father a child during or for 6 months after treatment because it can cause birth defects.**

## **Are you ready for treatment?**

To ensure your success completing hepatitis C treatment, please consider the following:

- Are you alcohol and drug-free? If you have recent drug/alcohol abuse, it is recommended that you attend an approved drug treatment program for support.
- Have you discussed hepatitis C treatment with your primary care provider?
- Have you told a relative/close friend who is willing to help support you during treatment?
- Are you committed to making every treatment appointment and getting **FREQUENT** blood draws? We will want to follow you very closely during treatment.
- Can you return for an appointment 12 weeks after completing medication to be tested for cure?

### **Additional Requirements If Checked:**

If you have cirrhosis, you may need an:

\_\_\_\_ EGD (A tube put into the esophagus and stomach to look for swollen veins that can bleed).

\_\_\_\_ Ultrasound of the liver (done in the past 6 months). This non-invasive test checks your liver for cancer.

Call your primary care provider to make an appointment to plan for hepatitis C treatment once you are ready for treatment. At this appointment, treatment and side effects will be discussed in detail.

If you are coming to Anchorage and want a FibroScan, call the Liver Clinic ahead of your visit to schedule. FibroScan is a test using ultrasound waves to check liver stiffness or scarring/fibrosis in your liver. FibroScan testing is done in the Internal Medicine Clinic. Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before the test.