



## ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Liver Disease & Hepatitis Program  
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<http://www.anthc.org/hep>

We are glad to hear you are interested in treatment for hepatitis C! Here are some things to think about (and do) before you make your decision about treatment:

**Why be treated?** Current medications have high cure rates and less side effects. Getting rid of hepatitis C reduces your risk of developing complications and improves your quality of life.

### **What FDA-approved treatments are available?**

These are commonly used treatments for **Genotype 1**:

- Option 1 is Mavyret™ (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), 3 tablets taken once daily with food for 8-12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (18%) and fatigue (15%). In clinical studies, the treatment response rate to Mavyret™ was 99% for genotype 1.
- Option 2 is Harvoni® (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 8-12 weeks. The most common side effects are feeling tired (16%) and headache (14%). In clinical studies, treatment response rates to Harvoni® were 94-100%.
- Option 3 is Epclusa® (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (22%) and feeling tired (15%). In clinical studies, treatment response rates to Epclusa® were 94-98% for genotype 1.

These are commonly used treatment options for **Genotype 2**:

- Option 1 is Mavyret™ (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), 3 tablets taken once daily with food for 8-12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (18%) and fatigue (15%). In clinical studies, treatment response rates to Mavyret™ were 98-100% for genotype 2.
- Option 2 is Epclusa® (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (22%) and feeling tired (15%). In clinical studies, the treatment response rate to Epclusa® was 99% for genotype 2.

These are commonly used treatment options for **Genotype 3**:

- Option 1 is Mavyret™ (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), 3 tablets taken once daily with food for 8-12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (18%) and fatigue (15%). In clinical studies, treatment response rates to Mavyret™ were 95-98% for genotype 3.
- Option 2 is Epclusa® (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), 1 tablet taken once a day for 12 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (22%) and feeling tired (15%). In clinical studies, treatment response rates to Epclusa® were 85-98% for genotype 3.

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

Some treatments will require ribavirin which is 5-6 more tablets per day 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 in 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 **monthly** 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:

\_\_\_ 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 discuss hepatitis C treatment once you are ready.

If you are coming to Anchorage and want a FibroScan, call the Liver Clinic ahead of your visit to schedule an appointment. 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. Call us at 907-729-1560 or 1-800-655-4837.