



HCV Retreatment

Why do I need retreatment?

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

Why should I take treatment again?

With re-treatment 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, your chance of achieving a 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[®]** (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[®]** (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[™]** (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[®]** (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.
- **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.

There are limited data on the safety of HCV drugs in pregnant people and people who are breast/chest feeding. HCV treatment is recommended before considering pregnancy when practical and feasible. Despite the lack of a recommendation, treatment can be considered during pregnancy on an individual basis after a patient-clinician discussion about the potential risks and benefits.

If you are a person capable of becoming pregnant it will be recommended that you use a method to prevent pregnancy during treatment. For those who defer HCV treatment due to pregnancy, HCV treatment is recommended as soon as you are no longer pregnant or breast/chest feeding.

How you can prepare for retreatment:

To ensure your success in completing HCV treatment, please consider the following:

- Drinking alcohol and misusing opioids or other drugs can hurt the liver. If you have recent or ongoing drug or alcohol misuse, we encourage you to be treated for HCV as soon as possible for your health. It is recommended that you connect with an organization offering harm reduction services (such as iknowmine.org , Four A's, Interior AIDS Association,) for safer use tools. In addition, it is recommended that you connect with Behavioral Health or counseling services for substance use disorder if you seek or need more support.
- Have you discussed HCV treatment with your primary care provider?
- It is helpful to have a relative/close friend to support you during treatment.
- In-person or telemedicine visits may be needed during treatment. Which option is best for you? Please share this with your provider.
- Can you return for an appointment 12 weeks after completing medication to be tested for cure? If not, please let your provider know so that treatment testing can be scheduled 4 weeks after treatment completion or other arrangements made for testing.

Additional Requirements If Checked:

FibroScan in the Internal Medicine clinic on _____ at _____.

Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before FibroScan. Bring a drink or snack to have after the test.

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