



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Liver Disease & Hepatitis Program
4315 Diplomacy Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 907-729-1560 Fax: 907-729-1570
<http://www.anthc.org/hep>

We are glad to hear you are interested in treatment for HCV. 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 are well tolerated with minimal side effects. Getting rid of HCV reduces your risk of developing complications, it reduces your risk of transmitting the virus to others, and it can improve your quality of life.

What FDA-approved treatments are available for Simplified Treatment?

Commonly used treatments for **Hepatitis C** are:

- Mavyret™ (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), 3 tablets taken once daily with food for 8 weeks. The most common side effects are headache (18%) and fatigue (15%). In clinical studies, the treatment response rate to Mavyret™ was 95% -100%.
- 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 95% -100%.

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 treatment:

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.

___ If a FibroScan has been recommended, call the Liver Clinic at 907-729-1560 or 1-800-655-4837 to schedule an appointment. FibroScan is a test using ultrasound waves to check liver stiffness or scarring/fibrosis and measure fat in your liver. FibroScan testing is done in the Internal Medicine Clinic at the Healthy Communities Building, 3rd Floor. Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before the test.

If you are coming to Anchorage and a FibroScan has been recommended, 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 and fat in your liver. FibroScan testing is done in the Internal Medicine Clinic. Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before the test.

If you have any questions about hepatitis C, you can call the Liver Clinic at:

Toll-free number: 1-800-655-4837 or 907-729-1560 and ask to speak to a nurse.

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN TODAY!!!