

Treatment Advice Letter

<p>Attach patient identification Sticker</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>First name: _____</p> <p>Surname: _____</p> <p>Patient's Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>D.o.b: _____</p>

GP's Details:

Name:

Practice:

Known Allergies:

Date:

Your patient is receiving care for their Hepatitis C infection in the Department of Infection and Tropical Medicine and has been prescribed a co-formulated drug of Ombitasvir 12.5mg, Paritaprevir 75mg and Ritonavir 50mg (Viekirax) two tablets once daily and Dasabuvir (Exviera) 250mg twice daily.

Viekirax and Exviera are taken for a period of 12 or 24 weeks, together with Ribavirin. The combination is licensed to treat hepatitis c infection (genotypes 1 and 4). The combination of drugs and treatment length is dependent upon genotype and extent of liver damage as shown below. This will also be confirmed in correspondence.

Patient population	Treatment	Duration
Genotype 1b, without cirrhosis	Viekirax + Exviera	12 weeks
Genotype 1b, with compensated cirrhosis	Viekirax + Exviera + Ribavirin	12 weeks
Genotype 1a, without cirrhosis	Viekirax + Exviera + Ribavirin	12 weeks
Genotype 1a, with compensated cirrhosis	Viekirax + Exviera + Ribavirin	24 weeks
Genotype 4, without cirrhosis	Viekirax + Ribavirin	12 weeks
Genotype 4, with compensated cirrhosis	Viekirax + Ribavirin	24 weeks

Viekirax and Exviera are a combination treatment of three direct-acting antivirals with distinct mechanisms of action targeting hepatitis C at multiple steps in the viral lifecycle. Patients are currently being treated on a named patient basis through an early access programme as we are currently awaiting NICE approval. NHS England should be initiating an interim policy by May 2015 for particular patient populations.

The treatment has now been initiated. Written information on how to take the tablets has been provided and counselling given at the hospital. Please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for information on potential undesirable effects and drug interactions, before prescribing other medications to your patient. Specialist advice regarding drug interactions can be provided by the hepatitis specialist nurses, the communicable diseases pharmacist or our medicines information service. Contact details are shown at the bottom of this letter. Should you wish to check interactions yourself, you may find the following website helpful: <http://www.hep-druginteractions.org/>

GPs are encouraged to add this as a hospital issued drug in order to pick up potential interactions. There is a useful reminder on how to do this for GP practices on the [intranet](#) This combination therapy has been supplied by AbbVie pharmaceuticals as it is an early access scheme. Hence you should not be asked for prescriptions for this medication as the patient will be provided with all their medication from the hospital. Their usual repeat medicines should continue as usual. We will write to you again when treatment with Viekirax +/- Exviera

+/- Ribavirin has stopped so that this can be removed from the patient's record and we will also inform you of any other medication changes by letter.

If you have any queries regarding this or any aspect of their treatment, please do not hesitate to contact Vicky Goodall or Lynsey Jones (contact details below), or Dr Ben Stone (Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases 0114 2711790)

Yours faithfully

Vicky Goodall / Lynsey Jones
Specialist Pharmacist in Communicable Diseases / Clinical Nurse Specialist in Viral Hepatitis
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