

Treatment Advice Letter

Attach patient identification Sticker Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____ Patient's Address: _____ _____ _____ D.o.b: _____	GP's Details: Name: _____ Practice: _____ Known Allergies: _____ Date: _____
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Your patient is receiving care for their hepatitis C infection in the Department of Infection and Tropical Medicine and has been prescribed Simeprevir (Olysio) 150 mg once daily. Simeprevir is taken for a period of 12 weeks, together with a 24 week course of Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin.

Simeprevir is a protease inhibitor; it inhibits the NS3/4A enzyme that the hepatitis C virus (HCV) depends on to replicate. Simeprevir is licensed to treat hepatitis C infection (genotype 1a Q80K negative, 1b and 4) and is endorsed by NICE (Technology Appraisal TA331 February 2015).

The treatment has already 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](#) Simeprevir is funded by NHS England and is prescribed by the Infectious Diseases Unit. 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 Simeprevir 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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