

Sofosbuvir for treating chronic hepatitis C

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Sofosbuvir (also known as Sovaldi) is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with some types (called genotypes) of chronic hepatitis C. It is taken with other drugs (peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, or ribavirin alone). See table 1.

Table 1 Sofosbuvir treatment

Type of hepatitis C	Sofosbuvir with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin	Sofosbuvir with ribavirin alone
Genotype 1	Recommended by NICE	Not recommended by NICE
Genotype 2	<u>Not licensed</u>	Recommended only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the person's hepatitis C has not been treated before and they cannot have interferon or the person's hepatitis C has been treated before but has not responded well enough.

Genotype 3	<p>Recommended only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the person's hepatitis C has not been treated before and they have cirrhosis or the person's hepatitis C has been treated before but has not responded well enough. 	Recommended only if the person has cirrhosis and cannot have interferon.
Genotype 4, 5 or 6	Recommended only if the person has cirrhosis.	Not recommended by NICE

What does this mean for me?

If sofosbuvir (with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, or ribavirin alone) is recommended for you and your doctor thinks that it is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking sofosbuvir (with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, or ribavirin alone) until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Sofosbuvir (with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, or ribavirin alone) was recommended as a possible treatment for some types of chronic hepatitis C. This is because the benefits to patients justify its cost for these types of chronic hepatitis C.

The condition and the treatment

Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver that is caused by the hepatitis C virus. There are 6 different types of the virus, known as genotypes. Some people who are infected with the hepatitis C virus get rid of it quickly without treatment but most people develop a long-lasting infection; this is called chronic hepatitis C. People who have chronic hepatitis C may feel well for many years, but the virus causes damage to their liver later and can make them feel ill.

Sofosbuvir (also known as Sovaldi) is a drug used to treat all 6 genotypes of the hepatitis C virus. It is taken with other drugs (peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, or ribavirin alone) and can get rid of the hepatitis C virus from the body.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- British Liver Trust, 01425 481320, www.britishlivertrust.org.uk
- Hepatitis C Trust, 0207 089 6221, www.hepctrust.org.uk
- HIV-i-Base, 0808 800 6013, www.i-Base.info
- Liver4Life, 0800 074 3494, www.liver4life.org.uk
- Terrence Higgins Trust, 0800 802 1221, www.tht.org.uk

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

Technical terms explained

Not licensed

A treatment is not licensed when its marketing authorisation does not cover it to be prescribed for a certain condition or group of people. The process of giving a drug its marketing authorisation in the UK is carried out by the [Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#).

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Accreditation

