

# Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir for treating chronic hepatitis C

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## What has NICE said?

Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir (Harvoni) is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with some types (called genotypes) of chronic hepatitis C. See tables 1 and 2.

### Table 1 If your hepatitis C has not been treated before

Type of hepatitis C	Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir treatment recommended by NICE
1, without cirrhosis	8 weeks' treatment
1 or 4, with cirrhosis	12 weeks' treatment

## Table 2 If your hepatitis C has been treated before, but has not responded well enough

Type of hepatitis C	Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir treatment recommended by NICE
1 or 4, without cirrhosis	12 weeks' treatment
1 or 4, with cirrhosis	12 weeks' treatment, only if the person has a <u>low risk of the disease getting worse</u>

### What does this mean for me?

If you have genotype 1 or 4 chronic hepatitis C that fits the criteria in tables 1 or 2, and your healthcare team think that ledipasvir–sofosbuvir is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

The treatment should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking ledipasvir–sofosbuvir until you and your healthcare team 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.

Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir was recommended for some adults with genotype 1 or 4 chronic hepatitis C because the benefits to people with chronic hepatitis C justify its cost.

## 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 (genotypes) of the virus. 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.

Ledipasvir–sofosbuvir (Harvoni) is a combination of 2 drugs in a single tablet and is used to treat genotypes 1 and 4 of the hepatitis C virus. It can get rid of the virus in some people who have never had treatment or who had treatment before that didn't get rid of the virus.

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- British Liver Trust, 0800 652 7330, [www.britishlivertrust.org.uk](http://www.britishlivertrust.org.uk)
- Hepatitis C Trust, 0845 223 4424, [www.hepctrust.org.uk](http://www.hepctrust.org.uk)
- HIV-i-Base, 0207 407 8488, [i-base.info](http://i-base.info)
- Liver4Life, 0800 074 3494, [www.liver4life.org.uk](http://www.liver4life.org.uk)
- Terrence Higgins Trust, 0808 802 1221, [www.tht.org.uk](http://www.tht.org.uk)

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

## Medical terms explained

In the guidance a person is at low risk of their chronic hepatitis C getting worse if they have:

- a low Child–Pugh score (6 or below, that is, class A. This score measures the severity of chronic liver disease)
- a platelet count of 75,000/mm<sup>3</sup> or more

- no signs of high blood pressure (such as abnormal, enlarged veins in the oesophagus) in the portal vein system, the system that carries blood from the gastrointestinal tract to the liver
- not had liver decompensation (when the liver no longer works properly) because of their hepatitis C
- not had a drug called an NS5A inhibitor before (for example, ledipasvir or daclatasvir).

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## Accreditation

