

**EDUCATION GRAM™**

**Hepatitis C**

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Hepatitis C is caused by Hepatitis C virus which can be **transmitted** by sharing drug-injection equipment or blood transfusions (done before 1992). About **3.2 million** people in U.S. have the disease. There are two types of the disease, acute and chronic. **Acute phase** develops 2-26 weeks from exposure to Hepatitis C virus and most people do not have symptoms in the first 6 months. Around 25% of people clear the virus without treatment. **Chronic** Hepatitis C is more common and occurs when the virus is in patient's blood for more than 6 months. Chronic Hepatitis C can develop into liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. Less than 1 in 1,000 receive a liver transplant. **Symptoms** include jaundice, loss of appetite, nausea, fatigue, and stomach pain.

**Treatment:**

Unlike Hepatitis A and B, a **vaccine** for Hepatitis C is **not available**. Hepatitis C infection is treated with antiviral medications intended to clear the virus from the body. Since Hepatitis C virus mutates many times, in order for patients to receive treatment they are **genotyped** for the Hepatitis C genotype, because it dictates therapy choice and length of treatment.

Genotype	Standard Treatment (Interferon+ Ribavirin) Duration	Combination Drugs
1	48 weeks	Harvoni (Sofosbuvir +Ledipsvir)
2	24 weeks	Viekira Pak: (Ombitsvir+Paritaprevir+Ritonavir)+Dasabuvir
3	24 weeks	
4, 5, 6	48 weeks	

Drug Name	Class	Dose	Duration of Therapy	AWP Cost
PegIntron (peginterferon alfa-2b)	Pegylated Interferon Alfa (IFN)	180 mcg SC once a week	24-48 weeks	12 weeks: \$8,400
Pegasys (peginterferon alfa-2a)	Pegylated Interferon Alfa	Wight based, Initial dose 1.5 mcg/kg	24-48 weeks	12 weeks: \$9,250
Copegus, Rebetol (Ribavirin)	Necleoside Analog	<u>Genotype 1:</u> -Wt. > 75kg 1200 mg -Wt. < 75kg 1000 mg <u>Genotype 2:</u> 800 mg regardless of Wt.	48 weeks	12 weeks: \$550-850
Olysio (Simeprevir)	NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor (PI)	150 mg Daily Start with IFN+Ribavirin	12 weeks	12 weeks: \$66,360
Incivek (Telaprevir)	NS3/4A PI	750 mg	12 weeks	12 weeks: \$49,200
Victrelis (Boceprevir)	NS3/4A PI	800 mg three times daily	24-44 weeks	24 weeks: \$26,400
Sovaldi (Sofosbuvir)	NS5B Polymerase Inhibitors	400mg Daily	Genotype 1,2,4: 12 weeks Genotype 3: 24 weeks	12 weeks: \$84,000

Reference:

- American Liver Foundation. Hepatitis C. The American Liver Foundation. Accessed May 5, 2015 <http://www.liverfoundation.org>
- Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Hepatitis C Information. CDC, Accessed May 5, 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/C/index.htm>