

# **Viekirax and Exviera Treatment Gastroenterology Outpatient**

Gastroenterology Outpatient Department  
Lincoln County Hospital

[www.ulh.nhs.uk](http://www.ulh.nhs.uk)

## Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet aims to tell you about treatment for chronic hepatitis C. You have an infection with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) which is damaging your liver. We feel that you would benefit from treatment with Viekirax and Exviera tablets.

## What is Viekirax and Exviera?

Viekirax and Exviera is a new type of treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C. It is currently used with genotype 1 and 4 patients who have not been treated before, or who have had treatment in the past that didn't work. Viekirax and Exviera is a type of medication called a direct acting antiviral. It targets the hepatitis C virus and aims to clear it from your body. Your doctor may also give you an antiviral medicine called Ribavirin.

## How is Viekirax and Exviera taken?

Viekirax comes as 2 tablets and is taken by mouth, **once a day**. Exviera comes as 1 tablet and is taken by mouth **twice a day**. The tablets are taken at the same time each day **with food**. The type of food is not important. Swallow the tablets whole. Do not chew, crush or break the tablets as they may have a bitter taste. Viekirax and Exviera can be taken with or without Ribavirin. Your doctor or nurse will explain what you need to take.

## How long to take Viekirax and Exviera for

You will take Viekirax and Exviera for either 12 or 24 weeks. Your doctor will tell you how long your treatment will last. Do not stop taking these medicines unless your doctor or nurse tells you to. It is very important that you complete the full course of treatment. This will give the medicines the best chance to clear the hepatitis C virus infection.

## If you take more Viekirax and Exviera than you should

If you accidentally take more than the recommended dose, you should contact your doctor or nurse, or go to the nearest hospital straight away. Keep the medicine pack with you so you can easily describe what you have taken.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If it has been **more than 6 hours until your next dose** - take the missed dose with food as soon as possible.

If it has been **less than 6 hours** until the next dose - do not take the missed dose, take your next dose as usual with food.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

## Can I take Viekirax and Exviera with other medicines?

It is important to let us know what medication you are taking or have recently taken. This includes medicines bought without a prescription and herbal remedies. Viekirax and Exviera should not be taken with the following medicines: **alfuzosin hydrochloride, amiodarone,**

*astemizole, terfenadine, cisapride, colchicine, ergotamine, dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, methylethylergometrine, fusidic acid, lovastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, oral midazolam, triazolam, pimozone, quetiapine, quinidine, salmeterol, sildenafil, ticagrelor.*

**OR:**

*carbamazepine, efavirenz, nevirapine, etravirine, enzalutamide, mitotane, rifampicin, St. John's Wort.*

**AND:**

*Cobicistat, indinavir, lopinavir/ritonavir, saquinavir, tipranavir, itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, clarithromycin, telithromycin, conivaptan.*

*Use of ethinylestradiol-containing medicinal products such as those contained in most combined oral contraceptives or contraceptive vaginal rings.*

## How to store Viekirax and Exviera

Keep it out of the sight and reach of children.

Viekirax and Exviera should be stored in the original package in order to protect from light until the expiry date printed on the pack. After that, it should be disposed of at the pharmacy.

## Common side effects of Viekirax and Exviera

Itching.

## Common side effects of taking Viekirax, Exviera and Ribavirin

Feeling very tired, feeling sick, itching, trouble sleeping, feeling weak or lack of energy, anaemia.

## Pregnancy

Women must not become pregnant while they or their partners are being treated with Viekirax and Exviera with Ribavirin. This is because Ribavirin can cause birth defects or the death of your unborn baby:

- Do not start treatment if you are pregnant
- Do not become pregnant during treatment
- If you or your partner become pregnant during treatment or in the 7 months after treatment, contact your doctor straight away
- Do not breast feed

## Contact details

If you have any worries or need any more information please do not hesitate to discuss these concerns with your doctor or nurse.

**Gastroenterology Outpatient Department  
Lincoln County Hospital**

**Karen Murray Hepatitis C Nurse Specialist 01522 512 512 extension 2556  
Out of Hours 07824 896160**

**Dr A Sreedharan Consultant Gastroenterologist 01522 573416**

**Further Support**

**AbbVie Support Programme for patients prescribed Viekirax and Exviera (information booklets, dose reminders, motivational messages & peer support by enrolment)**

If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please e-mail the Patient Information team at [patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk)