

# **Harvoni 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.

Hepatitis C is a virus that infects your liver. We feel that you would benefit from treatment with Harvoni (which contains the prescription medicines Ledipasvir and Sofosbuvir). Harvoni works by lowering the amount of hepatitis C virus in your body. The virus is then removed from your body over a period of time.

## What is Harvoni?

Harvoni is used with or without Ribavirin tablets, for adult patients with chronic hepatitis C, genotype 1,4, 5 & 6 who have not been treated before; or who have had prior treatment that didn't work, or who are new to treatment.

You may receive up to 12 weeks of treatment with Harvoni.

## How is Harvoni taken?

Harvoni comes as one tablet and is taken by mouth, **once a day** and at the same time each day, **with or without food**. The type of food is not important. The tablet must be swallowed whole, not crushed, split or chewed.

If you are taking an antacid, take it at **least 4 hours before** or at **least 4 hours after** Harvoni.

If you are taking a proton pump inhibitor (PPIs), a group of medicines that work on the cells that line the stomach and include **Esomeprazole, Lansoprazole, Omeprazole, Pantoprazole and Rabeprazole** (and have various brand names), take it **at the same time** as Harvoni.

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

If you miss a dose of Harvoni and it is **within 18 hours** of the usual dose time, take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take your next dose of Harvoni at the usual time.

If it is **more than 18 hours** before you realise you have missed a dose, do not take the missed dose and wait to take your next dose at the usual time.

It is important not to double up on a dose of Harvoni or that you do not miss or skip doses of Harvoni during treatment.

If you take too much Harvoni, contact your hospital treatment nurse or doctor, or go to the nearest hospital emergency department and take the medicine packet with you.

## Can I take Harvoni with other medicines?

**It is important that you tell us about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements. Harvoni should not be taken with the following medicines:

*rifampicin, rifapentine, rifabutin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, oxcarbazepine, pravastatin, simeprevir, tipranavir, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate or any medicine containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Atripla, Complera, Stribild, Truvada, Viread) digoxin, dabigatran, St. John's Wort.*

Harvoni contains lactose so please tell your doctor if you are lactose intolerant, or if you have been told that you have an intolerance to other sugars.

## **What are the possible side effects of Harvoni?**

**Harvoni may cause serious side effects, including :**

**Slow heart rate (bradycardia).** Harvoni treatment may result in slowing of the heart rate along with other symptoms when taken with Amiodarone, a medicine used to treat certain heart problems. In some cases, bradycardia has led to death or the need for a heart pacemaker when Amiodarone is taken with Harvoni. Get medical help straight away if you take Amiodarone with Harvoni and get any of the following symptoms:

- Fainting or near-fainting
- Dizziness or light headedness
- Not feeling well
- Weakness
- Extreme tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pains
- Confusion
- Memory problems

The most common side effects of Harvoni from research trials include:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Weakness

Tell your hospital treatment nurse or doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

## **How to store Harvoni**

Store Harvoni at normal room temperature.

Keep Harvoni in its original container.

Do not use Harvoni if the seal over the bottle is broken or missing.

Harvoni should not be used after the expiry date in the bottle. Always dispose of unused medicines via your pharmacist.

**Keep Harvoni and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

## **Pregnancy and breast feeding**

Before taking Harvoni, tell your hospital treatment doctor or nurse if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if Harvoni will harm your unborn baby.

**Males and females who take Harvoni in combination with Ribavirin, should also read the Ribavirin information leaflet for important pregnancy, contraception and fertility information.**

If you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed, it is not known whether Harvoni passes into breast milk. **Talk to your hospital treatment doctor or nurse about the best way to feed your baby if you take Harvoni.**

## **Contact details**

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

**Gastroenterology Outpatient Department  
Lincoln County Hospital  
Dr A Sreedharan, Consultant Gastroenterologist  
01522 573416  
Karen Murray, Hepatitis C Nurse Specialist, 01522 512 512 extension 582556  
Out of Hours 07824 896160 or email [karen.murray@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:karen.murray@ulh.nhs.uk)**

## **Further support and information**

### **The Hepatitis C Trust**

Confidential helpline: 0845 223 4424

Web: [www.hepctrust.org.uk](http://www.hepctrust.org.uk).

### **Help Every Person C**

Web: [www.helpeverypersonc.co.uk](http://www.helpeverypersonc.co.uk)

### **British Liver Trust**

Web: [www.britishlivertrust.org.uk](http://www.britishlivertrust.org.uk)

Information line: 0800 652 7330

General enquiries: 01425 481 320

### **National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)**

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

**If you were infected with Hepatitis C due to treatment within the NHS prior to 1991 then contact:**

The Skipton Fund

PO Box 50107

London

SW1H 0YF Telephone: 020 7808 1160

Web: [www.skiptonfund.org.uk](http://www.skiptonfund.org.uk)

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)