

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Treatment Care Coordination Plan for Veterans Frequently Asked Questions for Veteran Choice Providers

1. Where will Veterans get their HCV medications?

Although you will write for the HCV medications, they will all be filled through the Veterans referral VA Pharmacy. As such, a VA pharmacist may contact you for clarifications of the prescriptions or issues relating to drug interactions. Veterans will not be able to use non-VA pharmacies for these prescriptions (i.e. for the initial 14 day supply) as these are not considered emergent medications.

2. Am I expected to follow all VA guidelines and recommendations for the treatment of HCV?

Generally, we hope that you follow our treatment recommendations as these are evidence-based recommendations assembled by an expert panel of VA specialists in HCV treatment. However, we recognize that there may be some differences in the interpretation for appropriate treatment plans for individual patients. Specifically, VA encourages the use of Viekira in patients where it is appropriate to use (see VA Criteria for Use links on page 3); some non-VA providers may not be comfortable treating with this regimen or have concerns with its use in specific patients. If you plan to depart significantly from VA recommendations for treatment, we would ask that you discuss the treatment plan with the VA HCV consultant, identified in the Referral Template.

3. Must I follow VA monitoring guidelines while on treatment?

Generally, we suggest that patients be monitored as outlined in the VA HCV Monitoring document. These recommendations are derived from recommendations from the package insert, as well as treatment guidelines for Hepatitis C. VA carefully monitors outcomes and response to therapy, and these monitoring guidelines facilitate our tracking of our patients.

4. Can VA assist in obtaining the recommended monitoring parameters?

Veterans who prefer to get laboratory monitoring done at their local VA may do so. Those Veterans that choose to have labs done in VA will have the results transmitted to you

Attachment F

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5. How long am I expected to follow the Veterans that I agree to treat?

The VCP Provider is expected to follow the Veterans authorized for care until treatment is completed, either with a virologic response after completing the anticipated treatment course, or discontinuation of medication due to treatment failure, Veteran choosing to stop, or adverse drug events. Once the treatment is complete, the VA will assume responsibility for the clinical HCV care of the Veteran. Most Veterans will need to have the care re-authorized by the contractor every 60 days.

6. How frequently can I see (and bill for) Veterans referred to me for care?

The contractors provide guidance regarding billing in accordance with the terms of your agreement. All care must be preauthorized by the contractor. An initial authorization includes all related specialty or ancillary care related to the original authorization for a period of 60 days from the initial appointment. Beyond 60 days, the authorization will need to be renewed. VA asks that you obtain the monitoring parameters as outlined in the VA HCV Monitoring document at the recommended time points, specifically HCV RNA monitoring.

7. What if the Veteran asks me to write for other medications unrelated to HCV treatment? In particular, how do I handle requests for opioids, or other medications?

You are not expected to care for issues that are unrelated to the authorization for treatment. If a Veteran asks for other medications that are beyond the authorized treatment referral, please inform the patient that they will need to contact their providers at the referring VA.