FACT SHEET FOR COMMUNITY BASED PRESCRIBERS

Which medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C are available through the PBS?

A range of medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C are available through the PBS. The medicines that are currently available are included in the General Statement for Drugs for the Treatment of Hepatitis C.

How are the medicines presented in the PBS Schedule?

The medicines are listed in the Schedule using a General Statement for Drugs for the Treatment of Hepatitis C to outline the patient eligibility conditions and prescribing restrictions. Treatment matrices outlining the particular medicines and regimens available through the PBS to individual patients, based on their disease genotype and treatment history, are also included in the General Statement to guide prescribing.

Who is able to prescribe these medicines?

States and territories may have specific requirements about who is eligible to prescribe these hepatitis C medicines in their jurisdiction. For the purposes of the PBS subsidy, where state or territory requirements allow, all medical practitioners, including general practitioners (GPs), experienced in the treatment of chronic hepatitis C infection, are eligible to prescribe these hepatitis C medicines. All other medical practitioners are also eligible to prescribe under the PBS, provided they are included in the PBS Schedule or the HSD program. Prescribers working in the community should use the PBS General Schedule listings.

Will these medicines require a PBS Authority approval prior to prescribing?

Yes. Prescribers may use either the written or telephone channels to seek approval from the Department of Human Services [Medicare] or the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) before prescribing these medicines under the PBS. They are not streamlined authorities. The Authority Prescription Application Service, administered by DHS-Medicare, can be contacted on 1800 888 333 or DVA on 1800 552 580. A separate authority prescription will need to be authorised for each medicine for PBS subsidy.

Can patients receive repeat treatment or be prescribed a different course of treatment under the PBS?

Repeat treatment and use of a subsequent or different course of treatment with the new medicines is not supported by current evidence. Although the current PBS restrictions do not prohibit patients receiving repeat treatment or a different course of treatment, the Department will be reviewing the use of these new medicines in the future to ensure they remain value for money for Australian taxpayers.