



HCSP FACT SHEET

• HCV TREATMENT: GENERAL INFORMATION •

Patient Assistance Programs

Written by: Alan Franciscus, Editor-in-Chief

Foreword

Many Americans do not have insurance and/or prescription coverage for healthcare services. In addition, some Americans have insurance coverage that has high deductibles. For these reasons people are in need of free or low-cost medicines. In order to provide free or low-cost medicines to those who qualify, patient assistance programs have been created by the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to these services some pharmaceutical companies will work with patients to see if the prescription for their drug is covered by the patient's insurance company or other drug plans.

The patient assistance programs also offer other services for people undergoing treatment with their respective medications. Merck/Schering, Vertex and Genentech/Roche provide services such as a 24 hour nurse on call, motivational information to help patients adhere and stay on the medications as well as various tips on side-effect management. These services can be accessed on the web or by calling the pharmaceutical company (see information below).

PAP – Umbrella Organizations

There are two large umbrella organizations—*The Partnership for Prescription Assistance* and *NeedyMeds.org*. These non-profits coordinate information about many different medications that may be provide assistance with the cost of the medications and insurance medication co-pays. The services available at these two umbrella organizations include:

- Information and help with the application process for free or low cost medication and co-pay charges.
- Drug discount cards that you can print out for receiving discounts on prescription, and over-the-counter supplies and medications that your medical provider prescribes.
- Information about free or low cost medical clinics.

For more information about their services visit www.needy meds.org and PPARX.org. We have included in this fact sheet a basic brochure from each assistance

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The information in this fact sheet is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.

This information is provided by the Hepatitis C Support Project a nonprofit organization for HCV education, support and advocacy

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HCV – Patient Assistance Programs

program. In addition the needymeds.org brochure also includes a drug discount card. Print it out and you can use it immediately for prescription and over-the-counter medications. **Note:** In order to receive discounts on over-the-counter medications your medical provider must list it on an RX form.

To apply for the pharmaceutical co-pays or drug assistance program have the following information ready to speed up the application process:

- Age
- State of residence and zip code
- Estimated gross annual household income
- Number of people living in the household
- Brand name of the prescription medicines that you are currently taking or have been prescribed (Incivek (telaprevir)—Vertex; Victrelis (boceprevir), PegIntron/Rebetol – Merck; Pegasys/Copegus – Genentech; Ribasphere and Infergen – Kadmon Pharmaceuticals)
- Type of health insurance and/or prescription coverage (if any)
- Name and contact information of physician who prescribed or will prescribe the medication

The people who assist you are specially trained to be courteous and sensitive to the special issues of information related to money and issues surrounding illness. All of the information is strictly confidential.

If it is determined that you may be eligible for a particular program you will be asked to fill out an application. For most people this process is stressful for a variety of reasons so it is highly recommended that you involve a caregiver, social worker, benefits counselor, healthcare professional, or friend to help with the initial process and fill out the application. After you fill out the patient information, the application will have to be sent to your medical provider to complete.

Other services

In addition to the drug assistance programs, pharmaceutical companies offer a wide variety of services:

- Some of the pharmaceutical companies will offer help with any insurance problems you may be having getting your medications covered.
- Provision of educational materials and information about hepatitis C including general facts about their HCV medicines.
- On-line services that can help with getting through treatment, such as on-line treatment diaries, reminders about taking your medicines and getting lab work done.
- Toll-free numbers to call for information and advice staffed by medical providers.

Local Health Department Programs:

In order to qualify for free or low cost medicines you need to have a current medical provider who is overseeing your care. If you do not have a medical provider check with your local health department about possible access programs through local, county and state health programs.

Patient Assistance Programs: Hepatitis A & B Vaccines

People with hepatitis C should be vaccinated against hepatitis A and hepatitis B if they have not been previously infected. The makers of the HAV and HBV vaccines offer patients assistance programs with low-cost and free vaccines (see below).

Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are another way to access care and treatment. To find out more information about clinical trials in your area visit www.hcvadvocate.org/community/trials.asp The HCV Advocate Drug Pipeline at www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/hepC/HCVDrugs.html maintains a current list of all drugs in development to treat hepatitis C. The list includes the name and Web information of the pharmaceutical company that you can contact about clinical trials in your area.

HCV – Patient Assistance Programs

Contact Information for Pharmaceutical Company Patient Assistance Programs

| Umbrella Organizations | | |
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| NeedyMeds.org | 1-978-865-4115 | www.needyMeds.org |
| Partnership for Prescription Assistance | 1-888-477-2699 | www.pparx.org |
| Patient Advocate Foundation Co-Pay Relief | 1-866-512-3861 | www.copays.org/ resources/hepatitisc.php |
| Vaccines | | |
| Merck-VAQTA – hepatitis A vaccine; RECOMBIVAX HB – hepatitis B vaccine | 1-800-293-3881 | www.merck.com/ merckhelps/ patientassistance/home.html |
| GSK - HAVRIX – hepatitis A vaccine; ENGERIX-B – hepatitis B vaccine; TWINRIX – combination hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine | 1-866-475-3678 | www.gskforyou.com/10_programs_under.htm |
| Pharmaceutical Companies | | |
| Genentech (Member of the Roche Group) | 1-877-PEGASYS (1-877-734-2797) | www.genentechaccess-solutions.com/portal/site/AS/ |
| Merck (includes Schering-Plough subsidiary) | 1-866-939-HEPC (4372) | www.merck-cares.com |
| Kadmon Pharmaceuticals | 1-888-668-3393 | www.kadmon.com/docs/patients_assistance |
| Vertex | 1-888-552-2494 | www.vrtx.com/patients.html |

