

FORTH VALLEY HEPATITIS SERVICE – INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

Clinicians, Dr. Tim Heron, Dr. Asma. Ahmed.

Specialist Nurses Lorraine Moffat, Karen Prentice & Karen Gibb

Hepatitis C Pathway Administrator– Wendy Mitchell

Hepatology Pharmacist – Pauline Morrison

Pharmacy Champion – Kirsten McIntosh

Background Information on Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus which can lead to chronic liver disease with relatively few symptoms. Transmission is mainly blood to blood contact. In Forth Valley area it is estimated there are 3000 infected with almost two thirds of these yet to be diagnosed. There are new direct acting antiviral treatments (DAA's) that can be used either in combination with pegylated interferon and ribavirin or not. These agents include Sovaldi® (Sofosbuvir), Harvoni® (Sofosbuvir/Ledipasvir), Maviret® (glecaprevir, pibrentasvir), Epclusa® (sofosbuvir, velpatasvir).

From April 1st 2015 these direct acting antivirals can be prescribed by the hospital services but dispensed and supplied to the patient from community pharmacies (see flowchart attached for process). Most of these patients visit their pharmacy regularly and so they can be supported through treatment with e.g. daily supervised dispensing where this will aid compliance.

The patients commenced on treatment are monitored closely for side effects and efficacy of treatment within the Hepatitis Clinics (see contacts below). Patients are reviewed regularly for the duration of treatment.

If you have any concerns about the patient including non-compliance with treatment, side effects or if any new medicines are to be started then please contact ourselves on the numbers listed below. Please contact us if the patient fails to present for their medicine as non compliance with treatment significantly increases the risk of treatment failure even if only one dose is missed.

The most concerning rare side effect is a rapid progression of depressive side effects with suicidal ideation or psychosis. If the patient does approach you with these symptoms please contact us or on call psychiatry (See below).

The community pharmacist will ensure that a pharmaceutical care plan is developed and maintained for each patient which will include monitoring the response to treatment and medicine information and advice provided. The community pharmacist will ensure that patient medication records are maintained.

Please contact the team at anytime if you have any concerns and arrangements can be made for the patient to be reviewed within the next hospital or outreach clinic appointment.

Clinics take place Monday am Area 2 SCH Monday am CADS Falkirk Community Hospital
 Monday pm Area 3 FVRH
 Tuesday am CADS Building, Stirling Community Hospital
 Tuesday pm Clackmannan Community Hospital
 Thurs am Area 2 SCH

Mon- Fri 8.30am- 5.00pm contact in order of urgency for advice or an urgent review of a treatment patient.

Karen Prentice Hepatitis Nurse Specialist mobile 07919413067,
Lorraine Moffat Hepatitis Nurse Specialist mobile 07823536968
Karen Gibb Hepatitis Nurse Specialist mobile 07554439376
Wendy Mitchell Pathway Administrator **01786 434079** / Mob: 07554439377

By Email FV-UHB.hepatology@nhs.net

Pauline Morrison Hepatology Pharmacist is available for drug interaction enquiries on 01324 566715 or 01324 566000 page 1629.

Out Of hours and weekends --- in an emergency please call the Acute Medical Receiving Team at FVRH

If you have identified any patients who are Hepatitis C or Hepatitis B positive and who wish further advice or referral into the Hepatitis Service, the pathways of referral are available through the SID intranet or contact the Pathway Administrator on telephone number above.

Author P.Morrison. Updated September 2017