



NSW/ACT Hepatitis C Community Prescribers Information Sheet

March 2009

HCV prescriber program update

- 32 patients were enrolled in the program from 1 January to 31 December 2008 with 11 patients on treatment. 5 new patients have been enrolled since 1 January 2009.
- Please remember to fax the *Initial Enrolment Form* to the collaborating specialist **and** to ASHM.
- Include your *practice contact details* so that clinic staff can contact you to discuss your referral if need be.
- Please phone/fax/email ASHM if you are writing scripts for HCV antiviral therapy.

CLINIC CONTACT: We encourage community prescribers to contact their local Clinic CNC to discuss or facilitate any aspect of their referral. **ASHM can arrange a clinical placement** at your local Liver Clinic if you are interested; clinical placements attract 1 HCV CME point per placement per year, maximum 3 points per triennium.

Reminder Prescriber Renewals for 2009

Thank you to those prescribers who have submitted your HCV s100 prescriber renewal forms for 2009. Letters of reaccreditation have been sent today.

For prescribers, who have yet to submit your forms, please take a few minutes to complete and return the reminder forms recently mailed to you. A self adjudication form was included so that you can advise us of HCV specific educational activities that you have completed and think merit CME points. If you need some advice, please contact Sonja Hill on (02) 8204 0724 or sonja.hill@ashm.org.au

Please note that a minimum of 2 HCV CME points must be accrued in any given calendar year with a total of 10 HCV CME points to be accrued over the triennium January 2008 – December 2010. Please see table 1 for the HCV CME point's award and accrual table for HCV Community prescribers 2008 – 2010 located in the Maintenance of HCV s100 Prescriber accreditation document on the ASHM website at www.ashm.org.au

IB2008_069 - Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program Bulletin

Ribavirin and Peginterferon alfa-2b (**Pegatron**) is now licensed under S100 for patients who have failed one prior attempt at interferon based therapies (non-pegylated or pegylated).

Please see http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/ib/2008/pdf/IB2008_069.pdf for full details of bulletin IB2008_069.

All relevant HCV S100 forms are downloadable from <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publicHealth/Pharmaceutical/hsd.asp>

New ASHM Website

The new ASHM website was launched recently. A dedicated prescriber login section has been developed under the 'My ASHM' section. All ASHM members, HIV and HCV community prescribers have already been sent their log in and passwords to access the restricted area of the ASHM website.

The prescriber log in section of the website will give you access to edit your personal details, order new ASHM resources, view prescriber resources page, register for ASHM courses and updates, view your prescribing history including training courses attended, renew your s100 HCV prescriber rights online and submit self adjudication forms and supporting documentation. Please log onto www.ashm.org.au for more details. Please do not hesitate to contact Sonja Hill at 02 8204 0724 or via email sonja.hill@ashm.org.au if you have any queries or are experiencing any difficulties with the prescriber section of 'My ASHM' on the ASHM website.

See the **NSW/ACT Hepatitis C Community Prescribing Pilot Evaluation Report** at www.ashm.org.au ; the Viral Hepatitis Guidelines and Policy section at www.ashm.org.au and the Hepatitis C models of care database at www.ashm.org.au which includes the **National Hepatitis C Testing Policy May 2007** and the **National Hepatitis C Manual 2nd ed.**

New HCV Advanced Nursing Courses and Courses in BBVs and STIs for Practice Nurses

Five **Advanced HCV Nursing Courses** will be conducted by July 2009. They will be located in Sydney (28-29th May) and in Dubbo (18-19th June) plus an Introductory Course in Hepatitis C Nursing on the 17th June. Courses in Wagga, Albury and Goulburn are proposed for June/July 2009.

A new **Blood Borne Viruses and STIs workshop for Practice Nurses** will be piloted in Wagga Wagga on 28 March 2009.

Sexual Health Nursing training courses are also being developed and will be offered later this year.

National Hepatitis Awareness Week May 18 – May 24 ; World Hepatitis Day May 19

ASHM is running several Updates in Viral Hepatitis as part of National Hepatitis Awareness Week. Please see the ASHM training calendar on the ASHM website at <http://www.ashm.org.au/courses> for full details soon.

The **Am I number 12?** campaign is continuing this year in addition to promoting **Love your liver** lunches.

ASHM is developing GP companion resources to assist GPs in answering 12 common questions patients ask about hepatitis B and hepatitis C. We will distribute Awareness Week resources when they become available.



Suggested online CME activities

1) A suggested online CME activity from Clinical Care Options is titled **2008 Update on the Use of Approved HCV Agents** and can be located at:

<http://www.clinicaloptions.com/Hepatitis/Conference%20Coverage/AASLD%202008/Tracks/Approved%20HCV%20Agents/Approved%20HCV%20Agents.aspx>

You will need to log in to complete this module, but it is free to join. It discusses: Insulin Resistance and HCV Therapy Response; Insulin Resistance, Fibrosis, and Steatosis; Impact of Cytopenia Growth Factor Support on HCV Treatment; SVR Rates in HCV Genotype 1 Patients With Advanced Fibrosis; SVR Rates in HCV Genotype 2/3 Patients With Advanced Fibrosis; Extending Treatment in Genotype 1 Slow Responders; Impact of Baseline Factors and Ribavirin Exposure on Risk of Relapse; High-Dose Peginterferon Alfa-2b Induction Therapy; Early Null Response and Association With SVR.

2) **HCV Expert Recap of AASLD 2008** is located at:

<http://www.clinicaloptions.com/Hepatitis/Conference%20Coverage/AASLD%202008/Virtual%20Presentation%20Programs/HCV/HCV%20ER.aspx> and includes:

Data on predictors of response to peginterferon/ribavirin-based therapy in hepatitis C patients; the safety and efficacy of protease inhibitors for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C; Data on novel polymerase inhibitors for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C; The importance of ribavirin in treating chronic hepatitis C and the role of ribavirin analogues; Anti-hepatitis C virus agents with novel mechanisms of action.

Dates for ASHM courses and hepatitis C events, 2009

28 March 2009	Blood Borne Viruses and STIs workshop for Practice Nurses - Wagga Wagga
6 May 2009	Viral Hepatitis Update Dinner - Parramatta
May 2009	Updates in viral hepatitis, several locations throughout NSW in Hepatitis Awareness Week
End May 2009	HCV prescriber update - Sydney
June 2009	HCV prescriber update - ACT
June 2009	Short Course in HCV Medicine - Sydney (for existing and new HCV prescribers)
7-9 September 2009	2009 Australasian Sexual Health Conference, Brisbane
9-12 September 2009	Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference 2009 (21st Annual ASHM Conference), Brisbane

Details of all courses and registration can be found on the ASHM website at: <http://www.ashm.org.au/courses>

ASHM Staff Contacts for HCV prescribers

For clinical matters please contact our Primary Care Liaison Officer:

Dr Damian Conway (Wed) 02 8204 0722

For administrative matters please contact:

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