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The Royal Liverpool
and Broadgreen
University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Patient information

Epclusa for the Treatment of Hepatitis C

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

This leaflet is designed to give you a general idea of the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not intended to replace the patient information leaflet (PIL) that comes with the medicine, but is designed to be read in conjunction with it. If you have any questions about Epclusa, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

What is Epclusa?

Epclusa contains two different agents for the treatment of Hepatitis C;

- Sofosbuvir 40mgs
- Velpatasvir 100mgs

How should I take Epclusa?

- One tablet daily - swallow whole and **do not crush or chew**

How much food do I need to take with Epclusa?

Epclusa can be taken with or without food

Do not take Epclusa if you are currently taking any of the following medicines:

- **Rifampicin** and **rifabutin** (antibiotics used to treat infections, including tuberculosis);
- **St. John's wort** (Hypericum perforatum – herbal medicine used to treat depression);
- **Carbamazepine**, **phenobarbital** and **phenytoin** (medicines used to treat epilepsy and prevent seizures);

Please contact your doctor or specialist nurse if you are taking any of these medications.

What are the common side effects with Epclusa?

Epclusa, like all other medicines, has some side effects. Most of these are minor and will settle within a few days.

If you are sick (vomit) after taking Epclusa it may affect the amount of Epclusa in your blood. This may make Epclusa work less well.

- If you are sick (vomit) **less than three hours** after taking Epclusa, take another tablet.
- If you are sick (vomit) **more than three hours** after taking Epclusa, you do not need to take another tablet until your next scheduled tablet.

If you experience any troubling side effects or new symptoms after you start Epclusa, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist who will tell you what to do.

What medicines should I avoid with Epclusa?

It is always important to make your doctor and pharmacist aware of any medicines you take to ensure that they are compatible with Epclusa

Some common drugs which may interact:

- **Amiodarone** used to treat irregular heartbeats.
- **Rifapentine** (antibiotic used to treat infections, including tuberculosis).
- **Oxcarbazepine** (medicine used to treat epilepsy and prevent seizures).
- **Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate** or any medicine containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, used to treat HIV infection.
- **Efavirenz** used to treat HIV infection.
- **Digoxin** used to treat heart conditions.
- **Dabigatran** used to thin the blood.
- **Modafinil** used to treat sleep disorders.
- **Rosuvastatin** or **other statins** used to treat high cholesterol.

Taking Epclusa with any of these may stop your medicines from working properly, or make any side effects worse. Your doctor may need to give you a different medicine or adjust the dose of medicine you are taking. This change could be to Epclusa or another medicine you are taking.

Potential Side Effects Questions and Answers

What shall I do if I have a headache or just need a pain killer?

- Paracetamol can be taken with Epclusa
- Ibuprofen can also be taken unless your doctor has advised you to avoid NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) for any reason.

If I have hayfever or have other allergies?

- Most antihistamines can be taken with Epclusa e.g. chlorpheniramine, loratidine, cetirizine.
- If your allergy is related to Epclusa (such as a rash) or any other medicines, speak to your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking any medicines.
- You should speak to your doctor or pharmacist before using any nasal sprays or getting any injections, to check for possible interactions with Epclusa and any other medicines you are taking.

If I have diarrhoea?

- For short-term diarrhoea relief, you can use 2mg loperamide.
- Remember to drink plenty of fluids.
- If you get a lot of diarrhoea and it lasts more than a few days, contact your family doctor (GP) or nurse to ask for advice.

If I have heartburn, reflux, indigestion or need medicines for stomach ulcers?

- Antacids (such as aluminium/magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate). These should be taken at least four hours before or four hours after Epclusa;
- Proton pump inhibitors (such as omeprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, pantoprazole and esomeprazole). Epclusa should be taken with food four hours before using a proton pump inhibitor.

If I am prescribed or take something for my mood, such as an antidepressant or St John's wort?

- Check with your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking these.
- St John's wort cannot be taken with Epclusa.
- See advice from your specialist nurse or doctor.

If I currently take, or would like to take, supplements, including calcium or iron?

- Most supplements can be taken with Epclusa but always check with your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking them.

What should I do if I or my partner becomes pregnant whilst on treatment?

- Contact the nurses as soon as possible who will advise you on the best course of action.

If I miss my Epclusa

- It is important not to miss a dose of this medicine.

If you do miss a dose, work out how long it is since you last took your Epclusa:

- **If you notice within 18 hours** of the time you usually take Epclusa, you must take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take the next dose at your usual time.
- **If its 18 hours or more** after the time you usually take Epclusa, wait and take the next dose at your usual time. Do not take a double dose (two doses close together).

Further Information

If you have a question about Epclusa or any of your medicines, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Hepatology Nurses

Tel: 0151 706 2805

Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 2805

ID Specialist Nurses

Tel: 0151 706 2966

Textphone number: 18001 0151 706 2966

British Liver Trust

www.britishlivertrust.org.uk

Tel: 0800 652 7330

Liver4Life
www.liver4life.org.uk
Tel: 08000 743494

Hepatitis C Trust
www.hepctrust.org.uk
Tel: 0845 223 442

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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