Foreword

It is estimated that up to 30% of Americans with HIV are also infected with hepatitis C (HCV)—this translates to approximately 300,000 people in the United States. The need and urgency for treating HIV/HCV coinfected people is somewhat greater than for those who are mono-infected with hepatitis C because HCV disease progression rate in the HIV/HCV coinfected person is much faster. In addition, successful treatment of hepatitis C improves liver health and functioning which should reduce the risk of potential HIV medication-related liver toxicities.

The decision to treat HCV in the person with HIV/HCV coinfection is complicated by many factors—control of HIV, and the potential for drug-drug interactions between HCV medications and HIV medications. But people with HIV/HCV coinfection can be successfully treated for HCV with expert guidance from a medical provider(s) and a good support system.

People with HCV seek treatment are many reasons:

- Prevent, delay or improve:
  - Liver disease (fibrosis, cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver transplantation)
  - Kidney disease
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Insulin resistance and diabetes
  - Various extrahepatic conditions
- Improved symptoms and quality of life
- A healthy liver = a healthy body

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.
People who are coinfected with HIV and HCV have even more reason to seek treatment because of the need to improve the health of the liver so that HIV medications can be metabolized safely. Curing HCV will also help reduce some of the mental, emotional and physical health problems as well as help the body by reducing some of the stress that HCV puts on the immune system and the body.

• **When to Treat**

Most experts would advise that HIV should be treated first or be under control. HCV can be treated if HIV is under control (CD4 count > 200). The other recommendations are similar to treating the HCV monoinfected person, but the decision is more difficult because of the potential drug-drug interactions between HCV medications and HIV medications. Another consideration is the side effects of HCV disease and treatment that are similar to and can exacerbate HIV disease symptoms and HIV treatment. People who are coinfected will benefit from support while on HIV and/or HCV treatment.

• **HCV Treatment**

The treatment cure rates for hepatitis C (HCV) in someone with HIV are similar to someone who is mono-infected with HCV. Listed below is a brief overview of the standard of care for the treatment of hepatitis C. For more detailed information, please see our treatment section of our website.

**Genotype 1**
- HARVONI—one pill, taken once-a-day – cure rates are from 90 to 100%
- VIEKIRA PAK—3 pills in one package. The pills are taken twice a day with food. It is taken with and without ribavirin (with food). Cure rates are from 90 to 100%

**Genotype 2**
- Sovaldi—one pill, taken once-a-day—ribavirin taken twice daily. Cure rates from 88% to 100%

**Genotype 3**
- Sovaldi—one pill, taken once a day—ribavirin taken twice daily. Cure rates from 60% to 93%

**Genotype 4**
- Sovaldi—one pill, taken once-a-day—pegylated interferon injected once-daily, ribavirin dosed twice daily. Cure rates 96%

• **Drugs in Development**

There are many drugs in development to treat HCV in people who are also infected with HIV.

To learn more about the drugs in development to treat people with HIV and HCV visit our drug pipeline/blog [http://hcvadvocate.blogspot.ca/](http://hcvadvocate.blogspot.ca/) and [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

**HCSP HIV/HCV Coinfection Materials on the Web**

Be sure to check out the variety of materials on HIV and HIV/HCV Coinfection on our Coinfection Page:
[www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/coinfection.html](http://www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/coinfection.html)

- HIV/HCV Coinfection Basics Series
- HIV/HCV Coinfection Facts Series
- FAQ’s
- Guides