



HEPATITIS C LESSONS • PART 11

Getting Your Medicine

PURPOSE

To help simplify where, when, and how the people in your group get their treatments. This can be complicated, so this lesson is designed to make it easier for them.

FACTS

Your group members need to know about the 3 kinds of pharmacies.

- *Specialty pharmacy*
- *Local/national chain pharmacy*
- *Discount pharmacy*

Patients also have rights regarding their health when it comes to getting their medicines

- *Rights about treatment*
- *Rights about privacy*

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Where should you order your medicine?

How do you care for your medicine?

Do you have a Starter Kit?

Do you know about the Patient's Bill of Rights?

How does the federal law protect me?

What rights does the Privacy Rule give me in terms of my health information?

Handout: What if you cannot afford your medicine?
A Patient's Bill of Rights

How do you care for your medicine?

If you are prescribed pegylated interferon:

- *Never leave the medicine in direct sunlight or in a hot car*
- *If you are traveling by plane, carry a copy of your prescription, for when the airport security asks to see it*

Do you have a Starter Kit?

Some drug companies provide Starter Kits for people getting treatment for hepatitis C. These kits are packed with useful information and tools, such as:

- *Videos*
- *Pill containers*

Contact the company that makes the prescription medicine to receive a Starter Kit.

NOTES

A Patient's Bill of Rights

Everyone who receives medical care has certain rights. The American Hospital Association wrote the Patient's Bill of Rights. Even though it is not a law, it has been widely accepted by the healthcare industry.

During your treatment for hepatitis C, there will be times when you should remember that the Patient's Bill of Rights might help you out, depending on your healthcare provider's policy. The Patient's Bill of Rights may help you in a couple of ways:

- 1. You have the right to receive medical care that takes your wishes, needs, and feelings into consideration.*
- 2. You have the right to get all the information about your diagnosis from your healthcare provider.*
- 3. You have the right to what's called informed consent. This means that the healthcare provider must give you enough information about a treatment or procedure so that you can decide whether or not you want it.*
- 4. You have the right to refuse treatment (if allowed by law).*
- 5. You have the right to privacy concerning your own medical care.*
- 6. You have the right to expect that all information and records about your care will be private.*

Other patient rights have to do with staying in a hospital. If you are hospitalized, ask to see the Patient's Bill of Rights for that hospital.

NOTES

How is health information protected by federal law?

A federal law called the Privacy Rule protects information about your health. It limits who is allowed to look at your health records.

The Privacy Rule applies to all forms of information about your health, whether it's written, electronic (on a computer or database), or spoken.

Another federal law, called the Security Rule, is just for your electronic health records. The Security Rule requires organizations to guarantee that your records will be protected, and that they are secure enough so that no one can gain access to them.

What rights does the Privacy Rule give me over my health information?

The federal government requires health insurers and providers to uphold your right to:

- *Get a copy of your health records*
- *Get in writing how information about your health may be used and shared*
- *Decide if you want to allow your health information to be used or shared for certain purposes, such as for advertising*
- *Get a report on when and why your health information was shared for certain purposes*

If you believe that your rights are being denied, or that your health records aren't being protected, you can file a complaint with your health insurance provider. You can also file a complaint with the US government.

What if you cannot afford your medicine?

If your health insurance does not include prescription coverage, or you can't afford to pay for your medicines, you might qualify for patient assistance from the company that makes your medicines. You will have to work closely with your healthcare providers to apply for these programs. Examples include:

- *Chronic Disease Fund:*
1-877-968-7233 – www.cdfund.org/Default.aspx
- *NeedyMeds.org*
1-800-503-6897 – www.needyMeds.org
- *Partnership for Prescription Assistance:*
1-888-477-2669 – www.pparx.org
- *Patient Access Network Foundation*
1-866-316-PANF (7263) – www.panfoundation.org/
- *Patient Advocate Foundation Co-Pay Relief*
1-866-512-3861 – www.copays.org/diseases/hepatitis-c
- *AbbVie (VIEKIRA PAK): 1-844-2proCeed* – <https://www.viekira.com/proceed-program>
- *Gilead: 1-855-769-7284* – www.mysupportpath.com/
- *J&J (simeprevir/olyzio): 1-800-652-6227* – www.jjpaf.org
- *Kadmon Pharmaceuticals: 1-888-668-3393*
- *Moderiba (Ribavirin):* www.moderiba.com/patient-support/financial

NOTES

Review Points

- *Where should you order your medicine?*
 - Specialty pharmacy
 - Local/national chain pharmacy
 - Discount pharmacy
- *What are some things that are protected by the Patient's Bill of Rights?*

Suggested Reading:

HCV Treatment: Patient Assistance Programs

Help with Medicines (Patient Assistance)

www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/easyfacts/e_Patient_Assistance.pdf

Patient Assistance Programs

www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/Patient_Assistance.pdf