



# HCSP FACT SHEET

• HCV TREATMENT: GENERAL INFORMATION •

## *Treatment Response Terms*

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### *Foreword*

The HCV RNA (viral load) test is given to confirm active infection with hepatitis C (HCV). HCV RNA levels are also measured before HCV treatment, during therapy and after HCV therapy. Listed below are definitions for various terms used to guide HCV treatment. The majority of measurements apply to treatment of HCV genotype 1 during treatment to guide the duration of treatment and to find out whether someone should stop treatment to prevent drug resistance and futility—that is, if a certain reduction in HCV RNA is not achieved then successful treatment is unlikely to occur and may cause more problems such as drug resistance.

### **Baseline HCV RNA (Viral Load):**

The HCV RNA (viral load) measurement before starting treatment. The baseline HCV RNA measurement before treatment is needed to measure various on-treatment response markers. A viral load under 600,000 to 800,000 is considered a positive predictor of treatment response.

### **Rapid Virological Response (RVR):**

An RVR means that the HCV virus is undetectable at treatment week 4.

### **Early Virological Response (EVR):**

An EVR indicates an HCV RNA (viral load) reduction of 99% (2 logs), or HCV RNA undetectable after 12 weeks of treatment.

### **End of Treatment Response (EOT):**

An undetectable HCV RNA (viral load) once treatment has been completed. This measurement is highly predictive of achieving an SVR.

### *Prior or First-time Treatment Response Terms:*

The terms listed below are used to indicate if someone had ever received HCV treatment, if treatment was successful, and, if it was not successful, what type of response was achieved:

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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.

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Treatment Response Terms

**Treatment Naïve:**

A person who has never been treated.

**Relapser:**

A person who becomes HCV RNA undetectable at end of treatment, but then becomes HCV detectable within 24 weeks from the end of treatment.

**Prior Partial-Responder:**

A person who has a 2 log<sub>10</sub> drop in HCV RNA by treatment week 12, but who does not become HCV RNA undetectable by end of treatment.

- Example 2 log<sub>10</sub> drop (99% decrease): 1,000,000 to ≤ 10,000

**Sustained Virological Response (SVR) SVR12:**

Continued lack of detectable serum HCV RNA 12 weeks after the completion of treatment. Also referred to as a "viral cure."

**Null Responder:**

A person who does not achieve a 2 log<sub>10</sub> drop of HCV RNA by treatment week 12 of treatment.

*Related publications:*

- **Adherence to HCV Therapy**  
www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets\_pdf/Adherence.pdf
- **Overview: HCV Treatment Side Effect Management**  
http://hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets\_pdf/SEM\_SideEffects.pdf
- **Patient Assistance Programs**  
www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets\_pdf/Patient\_Assistance.pdf

*For more information*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases</b><br/>www.aasld.org</li> <li>• <b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b><br/>www.cdc.gov</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food and Drug Administration (FDA):</b><br/>www.fda.gov</li> <li>• <b>Mayo Clinic</b><br/>www.mayoclinic.com</li> </ul> |
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