Consultation

PHARMAC
TE PĀTAKA WHAIORANGA

Proposal to simplify hepatitis C treatment assessment processes for Harvoni and ribavirin

26 November 2026

What we're proposing

We are seeking feedback on a proposal to simplify Pharmac's hepatitis C treatment assessment process, so applications are managed using Pharmac's existing assessment processes and clinical advisory arrangements.

If this proposal is approved there would be no changes to funded hepatitis C treatments. People who are eligible for treatment today would continue to be eligible, and there would be no change to how treatment is accessed or received.

Applications for hepatitis C treatment would no longer need to be reviewed by the Hepatitis C Treatments Panel, which would be retired.

We welcome feedback on this proposal. Consultation closes at **5 pm on Thursday 10 December 2026**, and feedback can be provided through our online form.

What would the effect be?

If this proposal is approved the following changes would occur from 1 March 2027:

- Applications for ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (Harvoni), with and without ribavirin, would no longer be considered by the Hepatitis C Treatments Panel. The Hepatitis C Treatments Panel would be retired, and applications would be managed through Pharmac's existing assessment and advisory processes.

- The criteria for accessing funded Harvoni, with, or without ribavirin, would be unchanged. Applications where it is clear the funding criteria are met would be approved without further clinical input.

- If needed, expert clinical advice could still be sought on funding applications for the medicines from other clinician sources (for example, from members of the Anti-Infective Advisory Committee or Gastrointestinal Advisory Committee).

  Harvoni would continue to be accessed via the following form and processed by Pharmac.

- The delivery arrangements for funded Harvoni, with or without ribavirin, would be unchanged.

- There would be no changes to the existing funding and supply arrangements for Glecaprevir with gpibrentasvir (Maviret) another hepatitis C treatment.

Why we're proposing this

The Hepatitis C Treatment Panel was established when Harvoni, was first funded to support assessment of applications during the early stages of its introduction. Harvoni is used by people who cannot use Maviret because of their clinical circumstances.

Over time, the need for this additional oversight has reduced, and applications can now be managed, without being reviewed by the Panel, using Pharmac's existing assessment processes and clinical advisory arrangements. As such, we are proposing to retire the Panel. This would bring the funding of hepatitis C medicines more in line with the way other funded medicines are accessed.

Pharmac is grateful to the members of the Panel who have contributed their time and expertise to supporting access to hepatitis C treatments.

Who we think will be interested

- Suppliers of hepatitis C treatments
- Hepatologists, gastroenterologists, and other health professionals who support people with hepatitis C.
- People involved in providing hepatitis C treatment services
- NGOs and advocacy groups, including the Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand, who support people with hepatitis C, their family and whanau.
- Pharmac's Clinical Advisory Committees

Details about our proposal

The effect of this proposal would be limited to the way applications for Harvoni with or without ribavirin would be processed by Pharmac. The funding criteria for these medicines would remain as:

Chronic hepatitis C – Advanced disease– ribavirin is not contraindicated

Applications from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid for 12 weeks for applications meeting the following criteria:

All of the following:

1. Patient has chronic hepatitis C (any genotype); and
2. Ribavirin treatment is not contraindicated; and
3. Any of the following:
    - 3.1 Patient has decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B or C); or
    - 3.2 Patient has been accepted onto a list for a liver transplant or has received a liver transplant; or
    - 3.3 Patient has essential mixed cryoglobulinaemia with associated purpuric skin rash and; either
        - 3.3.1 Glomerulonephritis; or
        - 3.3.2 Systemic vasculitis.

Chronic hepatitis C – Advanced disease - ribavirin is contraindicated

Applications from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid for 24 weeks for applications meeting the following criteria:

All of the following:

1. Patient has chronic hepatitis C (any genotype); and
2. Ribavirin treatment is contraindicated; and
3. Any of the following:

3.1 Patient has decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B or C); or
3.2 Patient has been accepted onto a list for a liver transplant or has received a liver transplant; or
3.3 Patient has essential mixed cryoglobulinaemia with associated purpuric skin rash and; either
- 3.3.1 Glomerulonephritis; or
- 3.3.2 Systemic vasculitis.

The information sheet that supports funding applications for this medicine would be updated to reflect the change.

Applications that do not meet these criteria would continue to be considered using Pharmac's Exceptional Circumstances Framework.

To provide feedback

Fill out our online form by **5pm Thursday 10 December 2026**

All feedback received before the closing date will be considered by Pharmac's Board (or its delegate) prior to making a decision on this proposal.

Your feedback may be shared

When you give feedback on a consultation, your feedback becomes official information that Pharmac holds. Pharmac has legal responsibilities for how we manage this official information, under laws such as the Official Information Act and Privacy Act.

Pharmac may receive a request from people for official information, which could include your feedback. Legally, Pharmac must consider whether your feedback should be released.

We will consider your views when assessing whether the feedback has to be released. Tell us if there is anything about your feedback that you would prefer wasn't released.

If your feedback is proposed for release, then Pharmac will contact you, unless there is a legal reason that we can't.

Note that Pharmac collects and holds your information in line with our Privacy Statement.