

In 2015/16, implementation began on a revised approach to the delivery of hepatitis C services across New Zealand. This involved the development of more integrated regional hepatitis C services where the focus is on a coordinated primary and secondary health care model with regional clinical leaders¹.

As part of the new configuration of hepatitis C services, resources would primarily be directed towards targeted detection, management and treatment of hepatitis C in populations who are at increased risk. Primary and secondary care services would be extended to provide improved assessment and follow up services for all people with hepatitis C.

In July 2016, Pharmac announced that Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (Harvoni) will be funded in the community and DHB hospitals for the treatment of hepatitis C for patients with severe liver disease, subject to restrictions; and Paritaprevir with ritonavir and ombitasvir copackaged with dasabuvir (Viekira Pak) and paritaprevir with ritonavir and ombitasvir packaged with dasabuvir and ribavirin (Viekira Pak-RBV) will be funded in the community and DHB hospitals for the treatment of hepatitis C.

For Northland that means for GPs who want to provide this care in their own practice, they will be supported by Secondary Care specialists and nurses for advice, education and management plans, while Primary Options programme Northland will support GPs and Practice nurses with primary care funding.

Hepatitis assessment, management and treatment information can be found on the Northland pathways site;

<http://northland.healthpathways.org.nz/index.htm?toc.htm?15354.htm>

The process form for Primary Options can be found on the Primary Options Website: http://manaiapho.co.nz/Primary_Options

Helpful resources for both clinicians and clients can be found on the hepatitis foundation website: <http://www.hepatitisfoundation.org.nz>

The Hepatitis foundation believes the new drug will be a game changer in treating the disease, as it has a success rate of more than 95 percent.

The foundation estimates 50,000 New Zealanders are infected with hepatitis C and have said the ability of GPs to treat patients with Viekira Pak is a significant first step towards eradicating Hepatitis C from the country by 2030

How to claim through Primary Options Programme Northland (POPNS).

As with all POPNs cases a referral must be lodged at the beginning of the episode of care. Payments will be made in 2 stages and will only be made on receipt of the process form.

Please find attached the instructions on how to process referrals and claims.