



A guide to...

Epclusa

Patient information

How to contact us

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Epclusa

This leaflet highlights the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not intended to replace the patient information leaflet that comes with the medicine but should be read as well as it. If you have any questions about Epclusa, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

What is Epclusa?

Epclusa contains two different agents for the treatment of Hepatitis C: velpatasvir 100mg and sofosbuvir 400mg. By blocking certain proteins, Epclusa stops the hepatitis C virus from multiplying and infecting new cells.

Please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you would like more information about how these drugs work.

How should I take Epclusa?

The recommended dose is one tablet, once a day. It is usually taken for 12 weeks; your doctor will clarify this.

Epclusa is sometimes taken with another medicine, Ribavirin - your doctor/nurse/pharmacist will advise you about this and how to take it.

Swallow the tablet whole, with or without food. Do not chew, crush or split the tablet as it has a bitter taste. If you have any problems swallowing, tell your doctor or pharmacist

- **If you are sick (vomit) after taking Epclusa** - it may affect the amount of Epclusa in your blood. This may make Epclusa less effective.
- **If you are sick (vomit) less than three hours** after taking Epclusa - take another tablet.
- **If you are sick (vomit) more than 3 hours** after taking it - WAIT until your next scheduled tablet

How much food do I need to take with Epclusa?

You can take it with or without food.

What are the common side effects with Epclusa?

Epclusa, like all other medicines, has some side effects. Most of these are minor and will settle within a few days or weeks.

- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Nausea

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Epclusa, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist who will tell you what to do.

If you have a question about Epclusa or any of your medicines, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or hepatology nurse.

What medicines should I avoid with Epclusa?

It is always important to make your doctor and pharmacist aware of any medicines you take to ensure that they are compatible with Epclusa. Some common drugs which need to be chosen carefully are:

Medicine	Why does your doctor and pharmacist need to know about this?
Medicines for stomach acid, stomach ulcers, heartburn or acid reflux disease ("antacids")	It is recommended to take these medication four hours before or four hours after Epclusa.
Proton pump inhibitor (PPI) (omeprazole only, do not take other PPIs such as lansoprazole, pantoprazole etc.)	It is recommended that if you need to take a PPI (omeprazole only - other PPIs are not recommended), then Epclusa should be taken with food and taken four hours before omeprazole at a maximum dose of 20mg per day.
H2-receptor antagonists (such as famotidine, cimetidine, nizatidine or ranitidine)	These can be given simultaneously with Epclusa.
Carbamazepine Phenytoin Phenobarbital Oxcarbazepine	Avoid taking these drugs as they may decrease the effect of Epclusa
Rifampicin or rifabutin	Avoid taking these drugs as they decrease the effect of Epclusa
Cholesterol medicines called statins	Epclusa may increase the effects of some statins which may be harmful. Your clinic doctor will help choose the right statin for you.
St John's wort for depression	Avoid taking this drug as it may decrease the effect of Epclusa
Amiodarone	Stop Amiodarone which is contraindicated. It may cause severe slowing of the heart if taken with Epclusa.

What if I...

Get a headache or just need a pain killer?

Paracetamol can be taken with Epclusa. Ibuprofen can also be taken unless your doctor has advised you to avoid NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) for any reason.

Get hayfever or have other allergies?

Antihistamines e.g. loratidine, cetirizine, prochlorperazine can be taken with Epclusa. If your allergy is related to Epclusa (such as a rash) or any other medicines, speak to your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking any medicines. You should speak to your doctor or pharmacist before using any nasal sprays or getting any injections, to check for possible interactions with Epclusa and any other medicines you are taking.

Get diarrhoea?

For short-term diarrhoea relief, you can use loperamide at low doses. Remember to drink plenty of fluids. If you get a lot of diarrhoea and it lasts more than a few days, contact your doctor/nurse to ask for advice.

Get heartburn, reflux, and indigestion or need medicines for stomach ulcers?

Antacids may be taken with Epclusa providing that you take them four hours before or after Epclusa. Medications such as Ranitidine may be taken at the same time as Epclusa. Omeprazole must **NOT** be taken together with Epclusa. Epclusa **MUST** be taken four hours before omeprazole. If you need to take one of these medications, please speak to your doctor/nurse or pharmacist **before** you start taking it.

Am prescribed or take something for my mood, such as antidepressant or St John's wort?

Check with your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking these. St John's wort must not be taken whilst you are taking Epclusa.

Currently take, or would like to take, supplements, including calcium or iron?

Most supplements can be taken with Epclusa, but always check with your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking them.

Miss my Epclusa!

Epclusa works best if there is a constant amount of the drugs in your body. It is really important that you take it regularly. However, you may occasionally forget a dose. Don't worry if this happens, just follow the guidance below. If you are having problems remembering to take your medicines, speak with your doctor or nurse now and they may be able to help you.

If you do miss a dose:

- **And you notice within 18 hours** of the time you usually take it, you must take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take the next dose at your usual time.
- **And you notice 18 hours or more after the time you usually take Epclusa**, wait and take the next dose at your usual time. Do not take a double dose (two doses together).