



PRESS RELEASE

5,000 New Zealanders have now received funded access to MAVIRET for the treatment of hepatitis C

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 27th July 2022 - AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV) is pleased to announce that over 5000¹ New Zealanders have been treated for chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) since MAVIRET (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir) was funded in 2019².

There are an estimated 45,000 people living with HCV³ in New Zealand. If left untreated for many years, HCV can cause cirrhosis, liver disease and liver cancer⁴.

Former hepatitis C patient and now outreach support peer worker, Ronald “Patchz” Tauaiti MacKinnon from the Rodger Wright Centre, said: “Living with hepatitis C took a toll on me physically, mentally and socially, and stopped me from living life to the fullest. I’ve experienced and witnessed firsthand how stigma and lack of empathy can deter this hard-to-reach community from connecting with healthcare services. What our people need is encouragement and support from those around them in order to move forward and start afresh.”

Professor Ed Gane, deputy director of the New Zealand Liver Transplant Unit and Professor of Medicine at the University of Auckland, said: “The funding of the current generation of direct-acting antivirals has played a significant role. However, eliminating hepatitis C requires more than advancements in medicine. We must remain focused on finding every New Zealander living with hepatitis C and link them to care. We need to remove current barriers by improving awareness about hepatitis C and increasing community access to testing.”

Kylie Pennington, Country Head of AbbVie New Zealand, said the company is passionate about making progress on the 2030 HCV elimination goal, as set by the World Health Organization.

“The evolution of the hepatitis C journey - from its discovery in the 1980s⁵ to the development of the current generation of treatment options - provides communities around the world with a unique opportunity to eliminate the disease within a lifetime.

“We’re proud of the progress made to date in addressing HCV in our communities. The Ministry of Health’s National Action Plan⁶ and a collaborative approach with sector partners and advocates will continue to build momentum as we work toward eliminating hepatitis C as a public health threat,” continued Kylie Pennington.

Learn more about hepatitis C by visiting <https://www.health.govt.nz/>.

Important MAVIRET® (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir) safety information

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MAVIRET®

MAVIRET® is a prescription medicine containing a combination tablet of 100 mg of glecaprevir and 40 mg of pibrentasvir. It is used to treat adults and adolescents 12 years and older with chronic (long-lasting) hepatitis C virus (HCV). This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called direct-acting antiviral agents. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why MAVIRET® has been prescribed for you.

MAVIRET has risks and benefits. You must not take MAVIRET® if you are allergic to any of the medicines contained in MAVIRET®, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Do not take it if you have severe liver disease, or if you are taking atazanavir or rifampicin containing products. Before you use MAVIRET®, tell your doctor if you have or have had liver problems other than hepatitis C infection, HIV infection, hepatitis B infection, or a liver or kidney transplant. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had diabetes. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or if you are breastfeeding or are planning to breastfeed.

Do not give MAVIRET® to a child under the age of 12 years. Some medicines and MAVIRET® may interfere with each other, so tell your doctor if you are taking medicines containing any of the following: atorvastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, lovastatin, carbamazepine, ciclosporin, darunavir, lopinavir, ritonavir, efavirenz, dabigatran, digoxin, ethinyloestradiol, fluindione, warfarin or other vitamin K antagonists, St John's wort.

Some of the more common side effects of MAVIRET® include feeling very tired, headache and nausea. Other side effects may occur in some people. Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

If you have any questions about using MAVIRET, including its risks and benefits, how much to use, how and when to use it, ask your healthcare professional and refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) available from the Medsafe website www.medsafe.govt.nz, or free phone AbbVie New Zealand on 0800 900 030. Ask your doctor if MAVIRET is right for you. Normal doctor's charges apply. Always use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue, or you have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional.

MAVIRET is a fully funded medicine with an alternative arrangement on how it is available to you. Your prescriber will explain this to you.

MAVIRET® is supplied in New Zealand by AbbVie Limited, L6, 156-158 Victoria Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand 0800 900 030. [MCMi Ver 6a]

About AbbVie

AbbVie's mission is to discover and deliver innovative medicines that solve serious health issues today and address the medical challenges of tomorrow. We strive to have a remarkable impact on people's lives across several key therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, neuroscience, eye care, virology and gastroenterology, in addition to products and services across its Allergan Aesthetics portfolio. Our heritage in New Zealand reaches back more than 80 years and we employ around 40 people with our therapies currently benefiting more than 5,000 Kiwis.

For further information please visit www.abbvie.co.nz. Follow [@abbvie_nz](https://twitter.com/abbvie_nz) on Twitter, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/abbvie_nz) or our [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/abbvie-nz) page.



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REFERENCES

¹ Ministry of Health: Major advances in the treatment of hepatitis C <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis-c/major-advances-treatment-hepatitis-c>. Accessed July 2022.

² Ministry of Health: Major advances in the treatment of hepatitis C <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis-c/major-advances-treatment-hepatitis-c>. Accessed July 2022.

³ Ministry of Health: Hepatitis C <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis-c>. Accessed July 2022.

⁴ World Health Organization: Hepatitis C <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c>. Accessed July 2022.

⁵ Hepatitis C virus: The 25-year journey from discovery to cure, J.W. Ward. Accessed July 2022. <https://aasldpubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hep.27377>. Accessed July 2022.

⁶ Ministry of Health: National Action Plan <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-hepatitis-c-action-plan-aotearoa-new-zealand-mahere-mahi-mo-te-ate-kaka-c>. Accessed July 2022.