

New Hep C Medicines

There has been a lot of news lately about the new medicines that are being tested to treat Hep C. It looks like the new medicines will help more people get rid of Hep C. It also looks like at least one of the newer medicines will only have to be taken for 6 months instead of a year—that is for

people with genotype 1.

But the new medicines will come at a higher cost in price and have more side effects. **Also, a lot of people don't know that the newer medicines will also have to be taken with pegylated interferon and ribavirin. So treatment will get a little harder for people to take.**

Two HCV medicines that look like they will be ready for use in 2011 or 2012 are telaprevir (tell-lap-pra-veer) and boceprevir (bow-cep-pra-veer). These two medicines will be the first medications that directly stop the Hep C virus from making more copies of itself. The downside of this is that if you miss too many doses the medicines will stop working or even worse may make it so that a person cannot take any of the same type of medicines again.

Remember...

- ◆ Talk with a doctor or nurse to find out if it is safe to wait or if you need to be treated now
- ◆ If someone needs treatment now ***they shouldn't wait for the new medications.*** The new medicines will not work for everyone

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