



by Alan Franciscus

## Help with Medicines

The medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) are expensive. Even if you have medical insurance it may be difficult to come up with the money for the co-payment fee. If you do not have insurance it can be even more difficult.

There are a couple of options for people who can't afford HCV treatment. The first one is applying to the companies that make the drugs to treat hepatitis C. You will have to work closely with your doctor or nurse to apply for these programs.

These programs also have many services and offer support that you can take advantage of while on treatment.

If you are having a hard time paying your bills and have no medical insurance another option would be to try to get into an HCV clinical trial. Clinical trials are regulated very closely now, and the person who coordinates the trial is an advocate for the people who enroll in the trial. Many clinical trials will pay for the medications and for some or all of the lab work that is needed.

### *For More Information.....*

- ◆ **Patient Assistance Programs:**
  - Partnership for Prescription Assistance: 1-888-477-2669 – [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)
  - Genentech/Roche: 1-877-734-2797 – [www.pegassist.com](http://www.pegassist.com); or Access Solutions [www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/portal/site/AS/](http://www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/portal/site/AS/)
  - Merck/Schering: 1-800-521-7157 – [www.beincharge.com](http://www.beincharge.com)
  - 3 Rivers: 1-800-405-8506 – [www.3riverspharma.com](http://www.3riverspharma.com)
- ◆ **Clinical Trial Information:**
  - Talk to your doctor or nurse about trials you might be able to enroll in
  - Visit: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) or [www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com) – type in “HCV”

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)



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