

## **EIGHT-WEEK HEPATITIS C TREATMENT AVAILABLE ON PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2018**

- *MAVIRET<sup>®</sup> is a new eight-week, pan-genotypic treatment for chronic hepatitis C patients who are new to treatment and without cirrhosis<sup>1</sup>.*
- *Approximately 200,000<sup>2</sup> Australians living with hepatitis C are at risk of liver cancer and cirrhosis<sup>3</sup>*
- *Australia is leading the race<sup>4</sup> to achieve hepatitis C elimination targets set by the World Health Organisation<sup>5</sup>*

**Sydney**, 1 August 2018 – AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV) Australia, a research-based global biopharmaceutical company, today announced MAVIRET<sup>®</sup> (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir) would be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018<sup>6</sup>.

MAVIRET<sup>®</sup> is a new once-daily, eight-week treatment for adults with all major genotypes of hepatitis C who are new to treatment and without cirrhosis<sup>1</sup>. The therapy contains two direct-acting anti-viral agents that work to block the lifecycle of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) in a patient<sup>1</sup>. Doctors consider a patient virologically cured of HCV if the patient has undetectable levels of the virus 12 weeks after completing the treatment course.

There are an estimated 200,000 Australians living with hepatitis C with an additional 10,000 new infections every year.<sup>2</sup> Around 90 percent of Australians living with hepatitis C are without cirrhosis and have not been treated<sup>7</sup>. Left untreated, hepatitis C can cause cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer<sup>8</sup> and is responsible for more than 600 deaths annually in Australia<sup>9</sup>.

The PBS listing is part of the Federal Government's \$1 billion investment in new direct-acting antiviral treatments<sup>10</sup> to help reach the World Health Organisation target of elimination of hepatitis C by 2030<sup>5</sup>.

**Professor Gregory Dore, Head of the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales**, said: "The inclusion of MAVIRET on the PBS provides a further tool in the strategy to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health threat in Australia, and globally. For people living with hepatitis C, particularly those who are new to treatment, this new regimen provides another treatment option."

**Kirsten O'Doherty, General Manager AbbVie Australia** welcomed the PBS listing of MAVIRET<sup>®</sup> and commended the Government on its commitment to ensuring Australians have access to the latest hepatitis C medicines.

"We have seen significant medical advancements in the development of hepatitis C medicines from the initial discovery of the virus in the 1980s, to the development and commercialisation of today's direct-acting antivirals which provide an opportunity to eliminate the disease in Australia within a generation.

“More treatment options, coupled with better access to the latest direct acting antivirals and General Practitioner prescribing should mean more people can be successfully treated by any of Australia’s 30,000 GPs.

“AbbVie is committed to helping eliminate hepatitis C by providing treatment options and supporting community elimination programs across the world,” she said.

All medicines have adverse effects and may impact different people in different ways. In clinical trials with MAVIRET®, the most common adverse effects were mild in nature and included feeling tired, headache and nausea. Refer to the CMI or your doctor or pharmacist for further information about MAVIRET®.

Australians with hepatitis C are encouraged to see their GP to have their liver health assessed and to discuss treatment options.

**PBS INFORMATION:** MAVIRET is PBS listed for the treatment of chronic genotype 1–6 hepatitis C infection in adults. Dual General Schedule and S100 [HSD] listing. Authority required. Refer to PBS Schedule for full authority information.

## INDICATIONS

MAVIRET® is a prescription medicine containing a combination tablet of 100 mg of glecaprevir and 40 mg of pibrentasvir. It is used to treat chronic (long-lasting) hepatitis C virus (HCV) in adult patients. 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; if you are taking atazanavir containing products, atorvastatin, simvastatin, dabigatran etexilate, ethinyloestradiol-containing medications (for contraception or hormone replacement therapy), rifampicin. Before you use MAVIRET®, tell your doctor if you have or have had liver problems other than hepatitis C infection, hepatitis B infection, a liver transplant. 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 18 years. Some medicines and MAVIRET® may interfere with each other, so tell your doctor if you are taking medicines containing any of the following: digoxin, carbamazepine, St John’s wort, darunavir, lopinavir, ritonavir, efavirenz, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, lovastatin, ciclosporin. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell. Some of the more common side effects of MAVIRET® include feeling tired, headache and nausea.

**If you have any questions about using MAVIRET, including the risks and benefits, how much to use, how and when to use it, ask your doctor or pharmacist and refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) by contacting AbbVie Pty Ltd on 1800 043 460 or from the TGA website [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au). Always use MAVIRET according to your doctor’s advice.**

## Consumer Medicine Information

For a copy of the Consumer Medicine Information for MAVIRET®, please refer to:

<https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&id=CP-2018-CMI-02054-1>

## About AbbVie in Australia

AbbVie is a global, research and development-based biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world. Our heritage in Australia reaches back more than 75 years and we employ more than 280 people with our therapies currently benefiting more than 32,000 Australians. For further information please visit <http://www.abbvie.com.au>. Follow [@abbvie AU](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) or our [LinkedIn](#) page.

## Notes to editors:

Professor Gregory Dore has served on advisory boards for AbbVie Australia.

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## References

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