Pegylated Interferon with Ribavirin (Pegasys RBV)

Pegylated Interferon with Ribavirin (Pegasys RBV) – General Information

Commonly Abbreviations: PR, PegIFN/RBV

Approvals:
Federal/Canada: Yes PharmaCare: Yes

Targeted Genotype: 2 – 6

How They Work: Interferons are proteins produced by the body in response to a viral infection. The interferons used in hep C treatments are manufactured by pharmaceutical companies.

Dose: Once weekly pegylated interferon injection and twice daily ribavirin pill

Length of Treatment: 12 - 44 weeks

Common Side Effects: Diarrhea, flulike symptoms, nausea, tiredness, mild anxiety, depression, skin rash, anemia

BC’s PharmaCare Eligibility for Pegylated Interferon with Ribavirin (Pegasys RBV)

Pegylated interferon with ribavirin is a limited coverage drug accessed through Special Authority request, usually by a specialist. For information about taking it as part of treatment for hep C genotype 1, please see above.

Taken alone pegylated interferon is PharmaCare covered for patients with chronic hep C genotype 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6:

For the treatment of chronic hepatitis C genotype 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 in:

- treatment-naïve patients with no cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis. Compensated cirrhosis is defined as cirrhosis with a Child Pugh Score=A (5-6).

AND

Who meet ALL of the following:

- Prescribed by a gastroenterologist or an infectious disease specialist or other physicians experienced with treating hepatitis C
- Lab-confirmed hepatitis C genotype 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
- Patient has a quantitative HCV RNA value within the last 6 months
- Fibrosis stage F2 or greater (Metavir scale or equivalent). Acceptable methods include liver biopsy, transient elastography (FibroScan®) and serum biomarker panels (such as AST-to-Platelet Ratio Index (APRI) or Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) score) either alone or in combination.
- Re-treatment requests will NOT be considered.

Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

PEGAssist Patient Support Program

For more information, contact your doctor, nurse, or call the program at: 1-877-734-2797.