

Hepatitis C Virus/HIV Coinfection

(Last updated August 16, 2021; reviewed August 16, 2021)

Panel's Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people with HIV should be screened for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection (AIII). Patients at high risk of HCV infection should be screened annually and whenever incident HCV infection is suspected (AIII).• Antiretroviral therapy (ART) may slow the progression of liver disease by preserving or restoring immune function and reducing HIV-related immune activation and inflammation. For most persons with HCV/HIV coinfection, including those with cirrhosis, the benefits of ART outweigh concerns regarding drug-induced liver injury. Therefore, ART should be initiated in all patients with HCV/HIV coinfection, regardless of CD4 T lymphocyte cell count (AI).• Initial ART regimens that are recommended for most patients with HCV/HIV coinfection are the same as those recommended for individuals without HCV infection. However, when treatment for both HIV and HCV is indicated, the ART and HCV treatment regimens should be selected with special consideration for potential drug-drug interactions and overlapping toxicities (AIII) (see discussion in the text below and in Table 18).• All patients with HCV/HIV coinfection should be evaluated for HCV therapy, which includes assessing their liver fibrosis stage to guide the duration of therapy and predict subsequent risk of hepatocellular carcinoma and liver disease complications (AIII).• Persons with chronic HCV/HIV coinfection should be screened for active and prior hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection by testing for the presence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and antibodies to hepatitis B surface (HBsAb) and core (HBcAb; total or Immunoglobulin G). Persons who are not immune to HBV infection (HBsAb negative) should receive anti-HBV vaccination (AIII).• HBV reactivation has been observed in persons with HBV infection during HCV treatment with direct-acting antivirals. Accordingly, before initiating HCV therapy, persons with HCV/HIV coinfection and active HBV infection (HBsAg positive) should receive ART that includes two agents with anti-HBV activity (AIII).
<p>Rating of Recommendations: A = Strong; B = Moderate; C = Optional</p> <p>Rating of Evidence: I = Data from randomized controlled trials; II = Data from well-designed, nonrandomized trials or observational cohort studies with long-term clinical outcomes; III = Expert opinion</p>

The treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is rapidly evolving. Patients with HCV/HIV coinfection treated with all-oral, direct-acting antiviral (DAA) HCV regimens can achieve sustained virologic response (HCV cure) at rates comparable to those in patients with HCV mono-infection.¹⁻³ This section of the guidelines focuses on hepatic safety and drug-drug interaction issues related to HCV/HIV coinfection and the concomitant use of antiretroviral (ARV) agents and HCV drugs. For specific guidance on HCV treatment, clinicians should refer to the [HCV Guidance](#) from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Approximately one-third of patients with chronic HCV infection progress to cirrhosis, at a median time of <20 years.^{4,5} The rate of progression increases with older age, alcoholism, male sex, and HIV infection.⁶⁻⁹ A meta-analysis found that patients with HCV/HIV coinfection had a threefold greater risk of progression to cirrhosis or decompensated liver disease than patients with HCV mono-infection.⁸ The risk of progression is even greater in patients with HCV/HIV coinfection who have low CD4 T lymphocyte cell counts. Although antiretroviral therapy (ART) appears to slow the rate of HCV disease progression in patients with HCV/HIV coinfection, several studies have demonstrated that the rate of disease progression continues to exceed that observed in patients without HIV.^{10,11} Whether HCV infection accelerates HIV

progression, as measured by the occurrence of AIDS-related opportunistic infections (OIs) or death,¹² is unclear. With older ARV drugs, persons with HIV and HCV coinfection experienced higher rates of hepatotoxicity than those seen in persons with HIV but not HCV.^{13,14} These higher rates have not been observed with the newer ARV agents that are currently in use.

Assessment of HCV/HIV Coinfection

All patients with HIV should be screened for HCV infection using sensitive immunoassays licensed for the detection of antibodies to HCV in blood.¹⁵ At-risk HCV-seronegative patients should undergo repeat testing annually or as clinically indicated. HCV-seropositive patients should be tested for HCV RNA using a sensitive quantitative assay to confirm the presence of active infection. Patients who test HCV RNA positive should undergo HCV genotyping and liver disease staging as recommended by the [HCV Guidance](#).

- Persons with HCV/HIV coinfection should be counseled to avoid consuming alcohol.
- Persons with HCV/HIV coinfection also should be counseled about appropriate precautions to prevent transmission of HIV and/or HCV to others.
- People with chronic HCV/HIV coinfection should be screened for active and prior hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection by testing for the presence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and antibodies to hepatitis B surface (HBsAb) and core (HBcAb; total or Immunoglobulin G).
 - Persons with evidence of active HBV infection (HBsAg positive) should be further evaluated and treated with ART that includes agents with anti-HIV and anti-HBV activities (**AIII**).
 - Those who are not immune to HBV infection (HBsAb negative) should receive anti-HBV vaccination.
- Patients with HCV/HIV coinfection who are susceptible to hepatitis A virus (HAV) should be vaccinated against HAV.
- All patients with HCV/HIV coinfection are candidates for curative HCV treatment.

Antiretroviral Therapy in HCV/HIV Coinfection

When to Start Antiretroviral Therapy

Initiation of ART for persons with HCV/HIV coinfection should follow the recommendations for all persons with HIV infection, considering the need for concurrent HCV treatment with oral DAA regimens, the potential for drug-drug interactions, and the individual's HBV status.

Considerations When Starting Antiretroviral Therapy

The same regimens that are recommended for initial treatment of HIV in most ART-naïve persons also are recommended for persons with HCV/HIV coinfection. Special considerations for ARV selection in persons with HCV/HIV coinfection include the following:

- When both HIV and HCV treatments are indicated, the ARV regimen should be selected with careful consideration of potential drug-drug interactions with the HCV treatment regimen (see Table 18 below).
- In persons with HCV/HBV coinfection, HBV reactivation has been observed during HCV treatment with DAAs.^{16,17} Therefore, before initiating HCV therapy, persons with HCV/HIV coinfection and active HBV infection (HBsAg positive) should receive ART that includes agents with anti-HBV

activity (such as tenofovir disoproxil fumarate [TDF] or tenofovir alafenamide plus emtricitabine or lamivudine) (**AIII**).

- Patients with cirrhosis should be evaluated for signs of liver decompensation according to the Child-Turcotte-Pugh classification system. All patients with Child-Pugh class B or C disease should be evaluated by an expert in advanced liver disease and considered for liver transplantation. Furthermore, hepatically metabolized ARV and HCV DAA drugs may be contraindicated or require dose modification in patients with Child-Pugh class B and C disease (see [Appendix B, Table 11](#)).

Hepatotoxicity

Drug-induced liver injury (DILI) following the initiation of ART is more common in patients with HCV/HIV coinfection than in those with HIV mono-infection. Individuals with HCV/HIV coinfection who have advanced liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease) are at greatest risk for DILI.¹⁸ Eradicating HCV infection with treatment may decrease the likelihood of ARV-associated DILI.¹⁹ Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) levels should be monitored 4 to 8 weeks after initiation of ART and at least every 6 to 12 months thereafter, and more often if clinically indicated. Mild to moderate fluctuations in ALT and/or AST levels (<5 times upper limit of normal [ULN]) are typical in individuals with chronic HCV infection. In the absence of signs or symptoms of liver disease or increases in bilirubin, these fluctuations do not warrant interruption of ART, but they do warrant monitoring to ensure a return to baseline. Patients with significant elevations in ALT or AST levels (>5 times ULN), concomitant increase in total bilirubin, or concomitant symptoms (weakness, nausea, vomiting) should be evaluated carefully for signs and symptoms of liver insufficiency and for alternative causes of liver injury (e.g., acute HAV or HBV infection, hepatobiliary disease, alcoholic hepatitis). If these signs and symptoms do not resolve, ART should be discontinued.

Concurrent Treatment of HIV and HCV Infections

Guidance on the treatment and management of HCV in adults with and without HIV can be found in the [HCV Guidance](#). Several ARV drugs and HCV DAAs have the potential for clinically significant pharmacokinetic drug-drug interactions when used in combination. Before starting HCV therapy, the ART regimen may need to be modified to reduce the drug-drug interaction potential. Table 18 below provides recommendations on the concomitant use of selected drugs for the treatment of HCV and HIV infection. In patients receiving ART that has been modified to accommodate HCV treatment, HIV RNA should be measured within 2 to 8 weeks after changing HIV therapy to confirm the effectiveness of the new regimen. After ART modification, initiation of an HCV DAA regimen should be delayed for ≥ 2 weeks. Resumption of the original ART regimen also should be delayed until ≥ 2 weeks after the HCV DAA regimen is completed. The prolonged half-life of some HIV and HCV drugs poses a potential risk of drug-drug interactions if a regimen is resumed soon after ART modification or HCV treatment completion.

Table 18. Concomitant Use of Selected Antiretroviral Drugs and Hepatitis C Virus Direct-Acting Antiviral Drugs for Treatment of Hepatitis C Virus in Adults with HIV

The recommendations in this table for concomitant use of select HIV drugs with Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved HCV DAA drugs are based on available PK interaction data or are predictions based on the known metabolic pathways of the agents. (Instances where PK interaction data are limited or not available are indicated in the table.) Whenever HIV and HCV drugs are used concomitantly, patients should be closely monitored for HIV and HCV virologic efficacy and potential toxicities. Because the field of HCV therapy is rapidly evolving, readers also should refer to the latest drug product labels and the [HCV Guidance](#) for updated information.

Note: Interactions with fosamprenavir (FPV), indinavir (IDV), nelfinavir (NFV), and saquinavir (SQV) are **not** included in this table. Please refer to the FDA product labels for information regarding drug interactions with these HIV PIs.

Selected HIV Drugs	HCV Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents							
	Individual Drugs		Coformulated					
			<u>SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THOSE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT</u> (Cirrhosis classified as Child-Pugh class B or C)					
	Daclatasvir	Sofosbuvir	Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ RTV plus Dasabuvir ^a
NRTIs								
3TC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ABC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FTC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TAF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TDF	✓	✓	✓ Monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✓ Monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✓ Monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✓	✓	✓
PIs								
Unboosted ATV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓ ^b

Selected HIV Drugs	HCV Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents							
	Individual Drugs		Coformulated					
			<u>SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THOSE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT</u> (Cirrhosis classified as Child-Pugh class B or C)					
	Daclatasvir	Sofosbuvir	Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ RTV plus Dasabuvir ^a
ATV/r or ATV/c	✓ ↓ daclatasvir dose to 30 mg/day	✓			✗	✗	✗	✓ ^c
DRV/r or DRV/c	✓	✓	✓ If a PI/r or PI/c is used with TDF, ↑ TDF concentrations are expected. If coadministration is necessary, monitor for TDF- associated adverse events. ^d	✓ If a PI/r or PI/c is used with TDF, ↑ TDF concentrations are expected. If coadministration is necessary, monitor for TDF- associated adverse events. ^d	✓ If a PI/r is used with TDF, ↑ TDF concentrations are expected. Monitor for TDF-associated adverse events. ^d Consider monitoring for hepatotoxicity. ^e		✗	✗
LPV/r	✓	✓			✗	✗	✗	✗
TPV/r	?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNRTIs								
DOR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EFV	✓ ↑ daclatasvir dose to 90 mg/day	✓	✓ If used with TDF, monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Selected HIV Drugs	HCV Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents							
	Individual Drugs		Coformulated					
			<u>SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THOSE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT</u> (Cirrhosis classified as Child-Pugh class B or C)					
	Daclatasvir	Sofosbuvir	Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ RTV plus Dasabuvir ^a
ETR	✓ ↑ daclatasvir dose to 90 mg/day	✓		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
NVP	✓ ↑ daclatasvir dose to 90 mg/day	✓		✗	✗	✓ ^f	✗	✗
RPV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
INSTIs								
BIC/TAF/ FTC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAB PO and IM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ Potential for QT interval prolongation with higher RPV concentrations. RPV is copackaged and coadministered with CAB IM

Selected HIV Drugs	HCV Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents							
	Individual Drugs		Coformulated					
			<u>SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THOSE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT</u> (Cirrhosis classified as Child-Pugh class B or C)					
	Daclatasvir	Sofosbuvir	Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ RTV plus Dasabuvir ^a
DTG	✓	✓	✓ If used with TDF, monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EVG/c/TDF/FTC	✓ ↓ daclatasvir dose to 30 mg/day	✓	✗	✓ If used with TDF, monitor for TDF-associated adverse events.	✓ If used with TDF, monitor for TDF-associated adverse events. Consider monitoring for hepatotoxicity. ^e	✓ If used with TDF, monitor for TDF-associated adverse events. Consider monitoring for hepatotoxicity. ^g	✗	✗
EVG/c/TAF/FTC	✓ ↓ daclatasvir dose to 30 mg/day	✓	✓	✓	✓ Consider monitoring for hepatotoxicity. ^e	✓ Consider monitoring for hepatotoxicity. ^g	✗	✗
RAL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Selected HIV Drugs	HCV Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents							
	Individual Drugs		Coformulated					
			<u>SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THOSE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT</u> (Cirrhosis classified as Child-Pugh class B or C)					
	Daclatasvir	Sofosbuvir	Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir/ Voxilaprevir	Glecaprevir/ Pibrentasvir	Elbasvir/ Grazoprevir	Ombitasvir/ Paritaprevir/ RTV plus Dasabuvir ^a
CCR5 Antagonist								
MVC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✘
Attachment Inhibitor								
FTR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✘ Use alternative HCV regimen if possible	✓	✘ Use alternative HCV regimen if possible	✓

^a Dasabuvir must be prescribed with ombitasvir/paritaprevir/RTV.

^b Reduce ATV dose to 300 mg and instruct the patient to take it in the morning at the same time as ombitasvir/paritaprevir/RTV plus dasabuvir. If RTV cannot be used, choose an alternative HCV regimen.

^c This HCV regimen contains RTV. If ATV is part of the ARV regimen, prescribe ATV 300 mg without COBI or RTV. The modified ARV regimen should be taken in the morning at the same time as ombitasvir/paritaprevir/RTV plus dasabuvir. Resume RTV or COBI regimen when HCV therapy is completed.

^d Consider using an alternative HCV treatment or ARV regimen to avoid increases in TDF exposure. If coadministration is necessary, monitor patient for TDF-associated adverse events.

^e Voxilaprevir exposures can increase when it is coadministered with pharmacologically boosted DRV or EVG. Until more safety data in clinical settings become available, patients who are receiving voxilaprevir and pharmacologically boosted DRV or EVG should be monitored for hepatotoxicity.

^f Consider an alternative ARV or HCV regimen. If used together, monitor for HCV efficacy.

^g Glecaprevir exposures can increase when it is coadministered with EVG/c. Until more safety data in clinical settings become available, patients who are receiving glecaprevir and EVG/c should be monitored for hepatotoxicity.

Key to Symbols:

✓ = ARV agents that can be used concomitantly

✘ = ARV agents not recommended

? = Data on PK interactions with ARV drug are limited or not available

↑ = Increase

↓ = Decrease

Key: 3TC = lamivudine; ABC = abacavir; ARV = antiretroviral; ATV = atazanavir; ATV/c = atazanavir/cobicistat; ATV/r = atazanavir/ritonavir; BIC = bictegravir; CAB = cabotegravir; COBI = cobicistat; DOR = doravirine; DRV = darunavir; DRV/c = darunavir/cobicistat; DRV/r = darunavir/ritonavir; DTG = dolutegravir; EFV = efavirenz; ETR = etravirine; EVG = elvitegravir; EVG/c = elvitegravir/cobicistat; FTC = emtricitabine; FTR = fostemsavir; HCV = hepatitis C virus; IM = intramuscular; INSTI = integrase strand transfer inhibitor; LPV/r = lopinavir/ritonavir; MVC = maraviroc; NNRTI = non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; NRTI = nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; NVP = nevirapine; PI = protease inhibitor; PI/c = protease inhibitor/cobicistat; PI/r = protease inhibitor/ritonavir; PK = pharmacokinetic; PO = oral; RAL = raltegravir; RPV = rilpivirine; RTV = ritonavir; TAF = tenofovir alafenamide; TDF = tenofovir disoproxil fumarate; TPV/r = tipranavir/ritonavir

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