Viekira XR™ – New Formulation Approval

- On July 25, 2016, AbbVie announced the approval of Viekira XR (dasabuvir, ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir) extended-release (ER) tablets, for the treatment of adult patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 1b infection without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, and genotype 1a infection without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis for use in combination with ribavirin.

- There are six major HCV genotypes, and genotype 1 is the most prevalent form of HCV in the U.S., accounting for approximately 74% of all cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 2.7 million Americans are chronically infected with HCV.

- Viekira XR is a 4-drug, fixed dose co-formulation of the active ingredients in Viekira Pak®, which contain three direct-acting antiviral agents (dasabuvir, ombitasvir, paritaprevir) and a potent cytochrome 3A (CYP3A) inhibitor (ritonavir).

- The approval of Viekira XR was supported by seven clinical trials in more than 2,300 patients who received Viekira Pak with or without ribavirin, as well as two bioavailability studies comparing the formulations.

- Viekira XR is contraindicated in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B and C) due to risk of potential toxicity; if Viekira XR is administered with ribavirin, the contraindications to ribavirin also apply to this combination regimen; with drugs that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance and for which elevated plasma concentrations are associated with serious and/or life-threatening events; with drugs that are moderate or strong inducers of CYP3A and strong inducers of CYP2C8 and may lead to reduced efficacy of Viekira XR; with drugs that are strong inhibitors of CYP2C8 and may increase dasabuvir plasma concentrations and the risk of QT prolongation; in patients with known hypersensitivity to ritonavir (e.g. toxic epidermal necrolysis or Stevens-Johnson syndrome).

- Warnings and precautions of Viekira XR include risk of hepatic decompensation and hepatic failure in patients with cirrhosis, increased risk of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) elevations, risk associated with ribavirin combination treatment, risk of adverse reactions or reduced therapeutic effect due to drug interactions, and risk of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) protease inhibitor drug resistance in HCV/HIV-1 co-infected patients.

- In patients receiving the combination of dasabuvir with ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir with ribavirin, the most commonly reported adverse reactions (> 10%) were fatigue, nausea, pruritus, other skin reactions, insomnia and asthenia.

- In patients receiving the combination of dasabuvir with ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir without ribavirin, the most commonly reported adverse reactions (≥ 5%) were nausea, pruritus and insomnia.

- The recommended dose of Viekira XR is 3 tablets taken orally once daily.

Treatment Regimens – Treatment-Naïve or Interferon-Experienced

Population	Treatment*	Duration
Genotype 1a without cirrhosis	Viekira XR + ribavirin	12 weeks
Genotype 1a with compensated cirrhosis	Viekira XR + ribavirin	24 weeks**

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Genotype 1b with or without compensated cirrhosis	Viekira XR	12 weeks

*Note: Follow the genotype 1a dosing recommendations in patients with an unknown genotype 1 subtype or with mixed genotype 1 infection.
**Viekira XR administered with ribavirin for 12 weeks may be considered for some patients based on prior treatment history

- For HCV/HIV-1 co-infected patients, follow the dosage recommendations in the table above.
- For liver transplant recipients with normal hepatic function and mild fibrosis (Metavir fibrosis score ≤ 2), the recommended duration of Viekira XR with ribavirin is 24 weeks.
- Prior to initiation of Viekira XR, patients should be assessed for laboratory and clinical evidence of hepatic decompensation.
- Viekira XR must be taken with a meal because administration under fasting conditions may result in reduced virologic response and possible development of resistance.

- The recommended dose of Viekira Pak is 2 fixed dose tablets of ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir once daily in the morning and 1 tablet of dasabuvir twice daily in the morning and evening.

- AbbVie's launch plans for Viekira XR are pending. Viekira XR will be available as ER tablets, containing 200 mg dasabuvir, 8.33 mg ombitasvir, 50 mg paritaprevir, and 33.33 mg ritonavir.