

Genentech Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Advocate Meeting Update

On July 12, 2010, CalHEP joined Genentech and advocates from around the country to talk about Genentech's new HCV medications that are in the FDA pipeline; access and patient support services; and development strategies for addressing HCV/HIV co-infection.

Background: Roche acquired the biotech company Genentech in 2009. The US operations of Roche and Genentech now operate under the name Genentech with headquarters in South San Francisco, California. They recently released the following information regarding access to care.

Genentech Access Solutions

Genentech Access Solutions assists patients with reimbursement and alternative funding for Pegasys. If a Pegasys patient can't afford his or her co-pay, Genentech Access Solutions will refer him or her to an independent, non-profit co-pay organization and will help the individual through the process of applying to the organization. Beginning September 1, 2010, patients needing assistance with accessing Pegasys should be referred to 1-888-941-3331 and the website <http://www.pegasysaccesssolutions.com>.

Genentech Access to Care Foundation (GATCF)

The Genentech Access to Care Foundation recently sent a letter to patients currently enrolled under the Roche eligibility criteria for free Pegasys, informing them of new eligibility criteria. The information was also sent to patients' doctors. It is important to know that patients who are currently receiving free Pegasys under the Roche patient assistance criteria will continue to receive free medicine for one year from the date they enrolled or were recertified in the program. Upon a person's annual recertification date under the Roche assistance program criteria, he or she will need to re-apply for assistance under the GATCF program criteria. Two changes between the former Roche and current Genentech criteria to obtain free Pegasys are 1) a higher income limit and 2) the referral to independent, non-profit co-pay organizations if a patient cannot afford his or her co-pay.

The Genentech Access to Care Foundation eligibility criteria for free Pegasys are:

- **Insurance:** The patient must be uninsured or rendered uninsured by payer denial. GATCF does not provide free medicine to patients who have insurance coverage, regardless of the co-pay amount.
- **Financial:** The patient must have an annual household adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$100,000 (line 37 on tax return). Special consideration of financial criteria can be made for patients who are recently unemployed.
- **Medical:** The patient must meet medical criteria.

To apply for free Pegasys beginning September 1, 2010, physicians' offices must submit two forms: a Statement of Medical Necessity signed by the doctor and a Patient Authorization/Notice of Release of Information signed by the patient. These two forms will be available online at www.PegasysAccessSolutions.com or by calling 1-888-941-3331 beginning September 1, 2010.