

**39. Genotype III Hepatitis C –
Availability of medication**

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Care:

Further to his Answer of 2nd April 2019, when medication to treat Genotype III Hepatitis C will be made available to patients in the Island?

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Mr Ashford): Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) are the new structures through which hepatitis C treatment in England is being commissioned and delivered. The Network involves regional centres which manage treatment decisions and prescribing, and which have a dispersed treatment model which aims to support partnership working and access for local patients. ODNs ensure specialist oversight of all hepatitis C treatment delivered in England, thereby providing patients with the safest treatment possible. The ODNs are delivered within a clear service specification which includes arrangements for governance and quality of assurance.

Since April 2019 the Department has agreed pathways and is in the final stages of securing membership of the Cheshire and Merseyside Hepatitis C ODN, hosted by Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust (RLBUHT) which provides a specialist hepatitis C service for patients in the north-west of England.

Establishing membership with the Cheshire and Merseyside Hepatitis C ODN will facilitate agreed pathways and drug treatment for hepatitis C to commence on-Island with appropriate specialist clinical oversight and establish the first stage in a programme to eradicate hepatitis C. An update on treatment will be given in December 2019.