

DISCHARGE LETTER TEMPLATE

Instructions:

- *Insert shaded information fields*
- *Provide letter and results to patient or health care provider when the patient is released or transferred to a different service*

Dear Doctor or Nurse,

Re: [Patient first, name surname (date of birth)]

Thank you for taking up the care of this patient who has been under the supervision of the Hepatitis Service within [name of prison health service] for management of chronic hepatitis C.

The patient has been investigated and found to have liver fibrosis stage [0-4] (with 0 indicating no scarring and 4 indicating cirrhosis). Copies of the relevant, recent investigations are enclosed. The patient is currently receiving antiviral treatment with [hepatitis C medication name] and is due to complete treatment on [date]. [Delete as appropriate] The patient has been given a supply of the medication to complete the treatment course / The patient needs a prescription for [number of remaining treatment weeks] of the medication.

This medication is very well tolerated, with very rare side effects. The treatment program is generally monitored with testing of the full blood count, renal and liver function tests at the end of treatment, and 12 weeks after treatment. I would appreciate if you could arrange this testing.

This medication provides a very high (>90%) cure rate for chronic hepatitis C. Cure is determined by testing for hepatitis C virus by PCR 12 weeks after the end of treatment. I would appreciate if you could arrange this testing.

Cure of the hepatitis C infection may be associated with very slow improvement in liver fibrosis. If the fibrosis stage is 4, a referral to a hepatologist is recommended.

If you have any queries, you may contact [name of prison health service prescriber, contact telephone number].

Yours Sincerely

Name of Prison Health Service prescriber
Position