The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Please see below comments from the Royal College of Pathologists on Consultation on decision to amend the deferred funding: Hepatitis C (chronic) - sofosbuvir [ID654]

"It is disappointing that NHS England has to apply for a deferral in the implementation of a NICE recommendation. There are in existence many Hepatology centres and networks within England that are able to deliver interferon based therapy efficiently to patients. It is difficult to see why additional effort over 9 months is required to set up the necessary infra-structure to implement a NICE recommendation, which is still largely based on a combination therapy of the new drug sofosbuvir with interferon/ribavirin with a limited number of patients eligible for interferon free therapy. The need for setting up a database is acknowledged, but this should not take up to 9 months to set up. We believe that the new service provision could be set up at a much shorter time frame. There should also be an interim plan to continue to allow patients with advanced disease to be prioritised for access to the new drug without waiting for the whole infra-structure to be set up."

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