



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Health Administration

Date 2004

Dear Veteran:

The VA would like to inform you that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved a generic formulation of ribavirin (Ribasphere™). This product is equivalent to the currently available ribavirin products, Rebetol® and Co-Pegabus®. Your Healthcare Provider supports the use of the generic product.

- ✓ On your next refill you will receive ribavirin (Ribasphere™) capsules.
- ✓ These capsules may look different than your previous medication. RIBASPHERE™ (Ribavirin capsules), 200mg are white, gelatin capsules printed horizontally with "riba 200" in green color on both the body and the cap of the capsule.
- ✓ Finish all of the capsules in your current prescription then begin to take the ribavirin (Ribasphere™) capsules.
- ✓ You will be taking the same number of ribavirin (Ribasphere™) capsules that you were taking of Rebetol® or Co-Pegabus®.
- ✓ Your healthcare provider will continue to monitor your laboratory work under your current schedule.
- ✓ Call your VA pharmacy or Healthcare Provider if you have any questions or problems with this change in your medication.

Sincerely,