



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Health Administration

Date 2004

Dear VA Healthcare Provider:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved a generic ribavirin capsule (RibasphereTM) which is bioequivalent to the currently available brand name products, Rebetol® and Co-Pegasus®. The Department of Veteran's Affairs after discussion with the Hepatitis Resource Center Directors has agreed to use this product. This will enable the VA to direct more of our expenditures to other area of Hepatitis C care via a decrease in the treatment costs for this condition.

- ✓ A patient information letter has been developed to aid in the conversion process. It can be found on the internet at www.vapbm.org and on the intranet at vaww.pbm.med.va.gov.
- ✓ The current dosing schedule and laboratory/clinic monitoring for patients does not require a change from current protocols.
- ✓ If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of RibasphereTM, please contact the pharmacy at your facility.

Sincerely,