

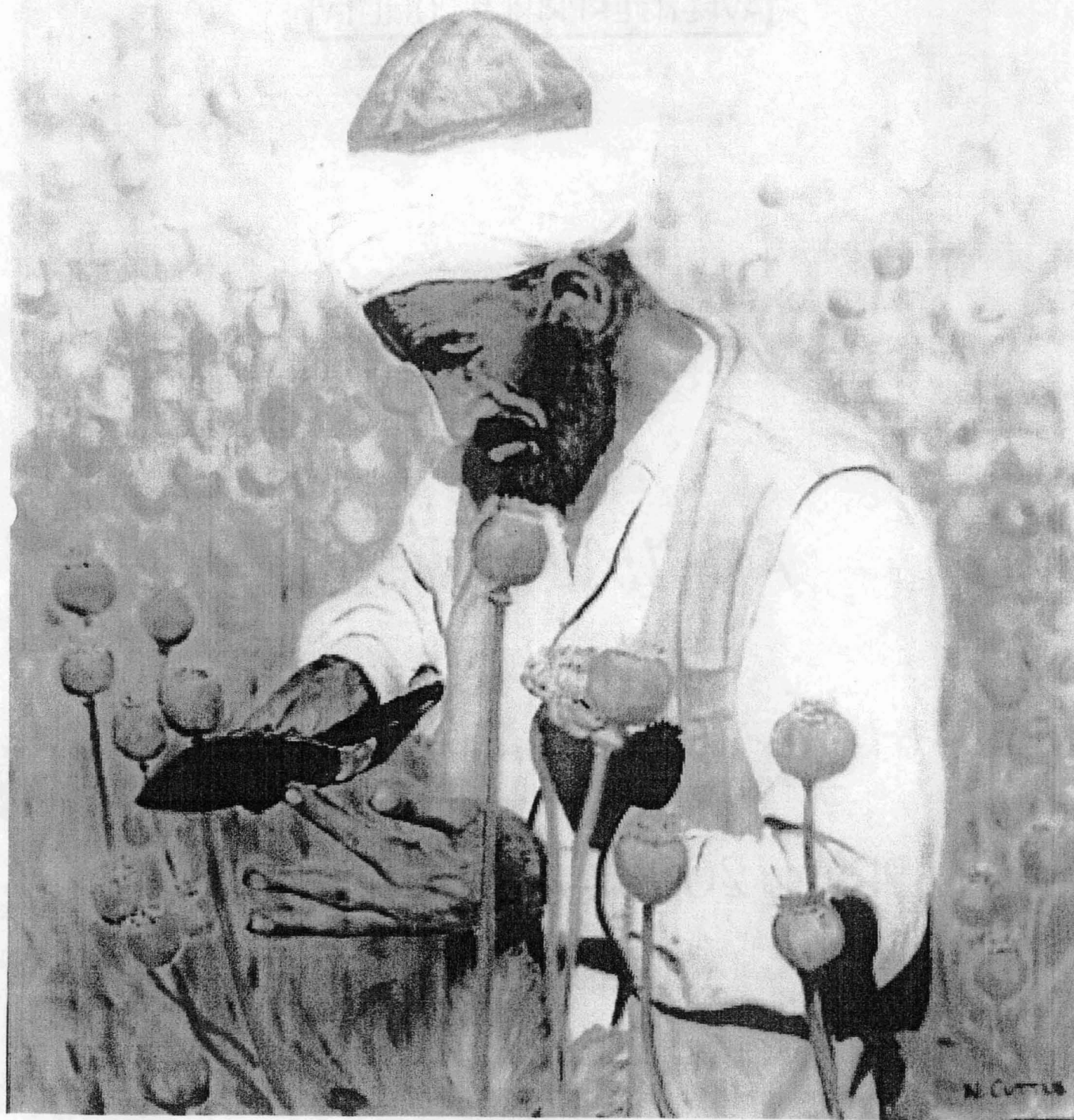
AVI ENTERPRISES SOCIETY

AVI Health Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2006 – MARCH 31, 2007

Prepared by Dana Becker



The AVI Health Centre Report April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007

Overview

The Health Centre continues to fulfill the goal of providing wellness resources and harm reductions strategies for people who use opiates thus reducing the risk of spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. We provide Hepatitis C treatment that includes education and support components.

As of the end of March 2007 we have 135 registered methadone clients. As reflected on the attached **chart #1**. At this point the number 135, reflects us having reached capacity. We are open and operating 4 patient days a week, and when necessary an extra half day (closed to patients) for data and lab entry.

We have a turnaround of approximately 3 or 4 patients a month so we are able to accept new patients on a limited basis. Fortunately there is a private methadone clinic in this building and we can confidently refer those we are not able to see quickly.

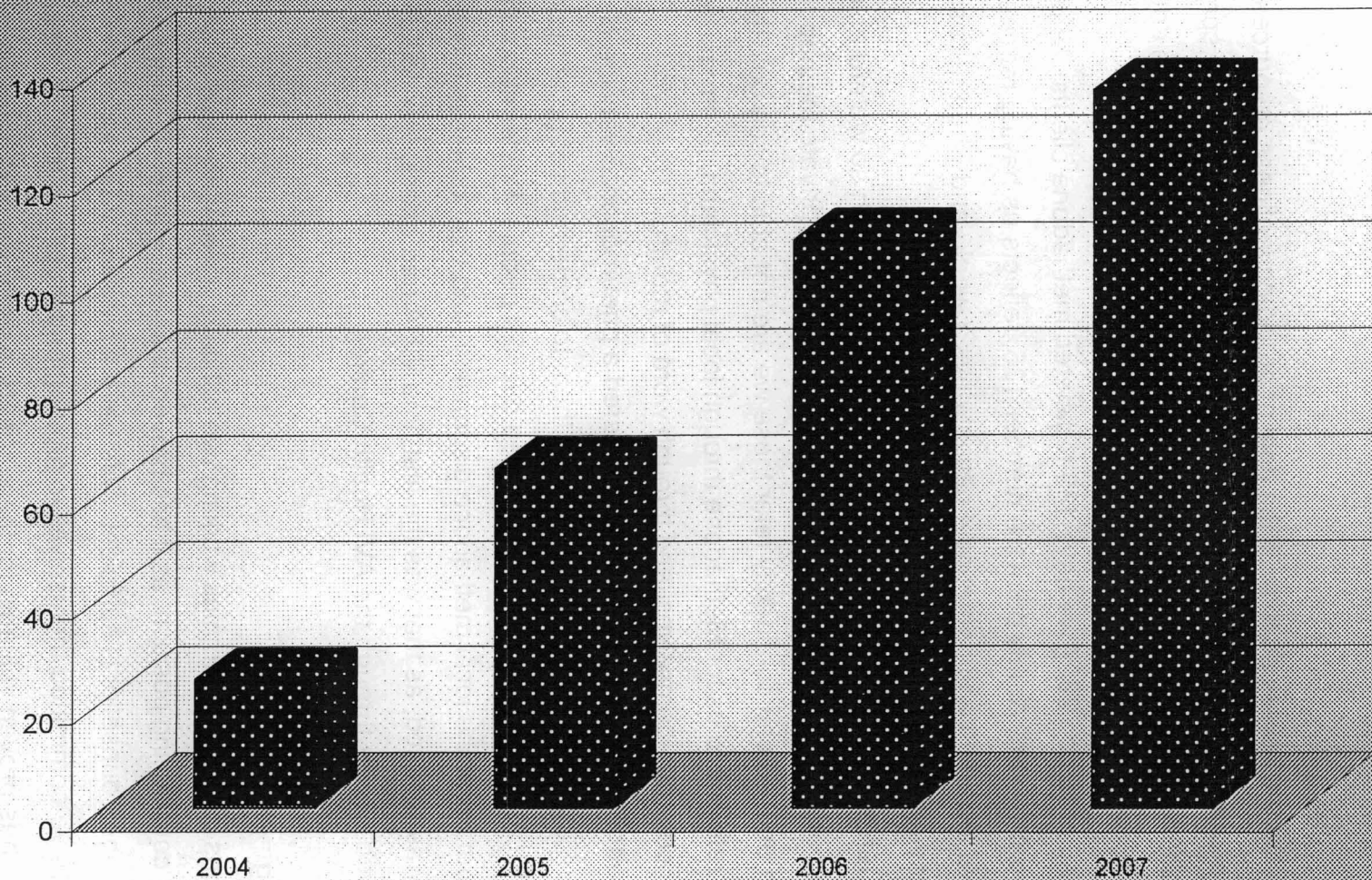
People are referred to us for Methadone through local physicians, pharmacists, correctional centres, themselves, and through word of mouth.

Central Vancouver Island Public Health offered a pneumococcal vaccine clinic at a satellite VIHA clinic across town. I encourage them to come and set up at the AVI Health Centre and we were able to vaccinate over 20 people. Poster about the free clinic were put up at the local methadone dispensary, and the homeless day time drop in center. I was pleased, as that was the first time VIHA had offered service directly to street involved clients through the AVI Health Centre.

Counselling

Our addictions counsellor remains working two full days a week. We are no longer filling the half-day counselling position, as it has proved unsuccessful for a variety of reasons. At this point one counsellor is sufficient. We have a consistent number of long-term clients who have committed themselves to regular, ongoing, long term counselling and support. This has proven valuable for these clients, as many would have succumbed to their addictions if support and counselling were not available on a regular basis.

Total AVI Health Centre Patients



	Mar-04	Mar-05	Mar-06	Mar-07
■ Total Patients	24	64	107	135

These clients are more stable, on the whole, than at any other time in their lives. Much of the work is motivational, with some in-depth work on multiple past traumas and goal development regarding schooling or work.

Another group of clients continue to use the counselling services on a sporadic, more crisis oriented basis. This work is more harm reduction based aimed at producing longer periods of drug abstinence and or decreasing harm. The age and gender of our clients can be viewed on **Chart#2**.

Hepatitis C Program

Our Hepatitis C nurse is a very important piece of our service. The cooperation and joint planning between physician, nurse and counsellor is valued by clients, and has created additional successes for clients in both Hep C treatment and addiction treatment. A need for more nursing hours has been clearly identified providing wound care, blood draws and other nurse practitioner duties. At any given time we have up to 10 patients receiving Hepatitis C treatment through the Health Centre.

The AVI Health Centre receives financial support from both Roche Pharmaceuticals (Pegasus) and Schering Pharmaceuticals (Pegatron). Last year we received a total of \$15,000 from the Pharmaceutical Companies, no strings attached, to assist us in providing treatment, education and support for folks living with Hepatitis C. At this point we use the funds to pay some wages for both the Nurse and the Medical Office Assistant.

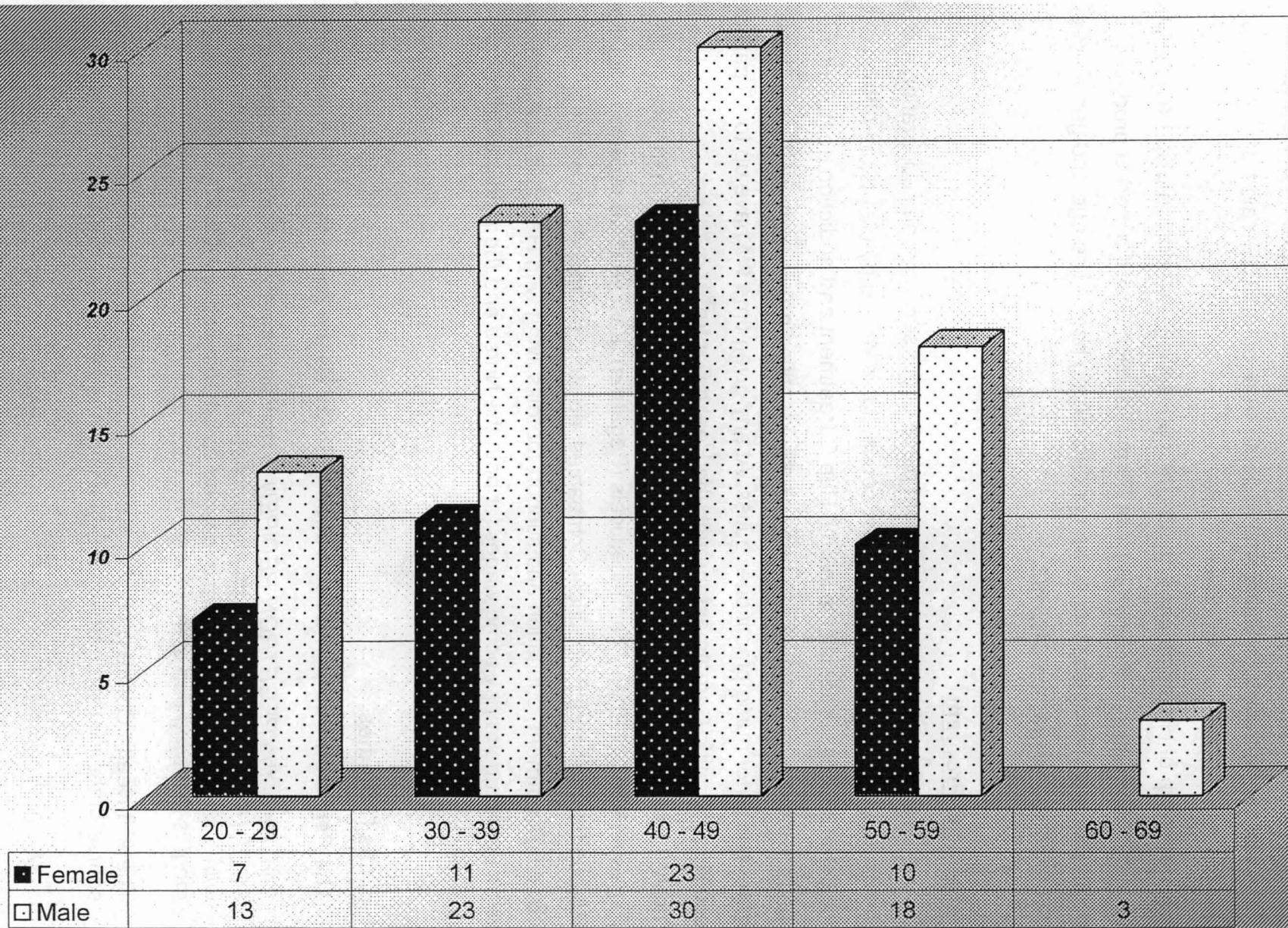
Hepatitis C Studies

- **The Pegatron Redipen Observational Study** we are participating in hypothesizes;

"the use of the PEGETRON REDIPEN, a new and improved delivery system for PEGETRON, will improve patient compliance and increase the number of patients with a sustained viral response, defined as an absence of HCV/RNA in serum, 6 months following end of treatment."

The AVI Health Centre is compensated for each form, (4 for each patient over the course of their 6 month treatment) that is completed and faxed to Schering.

Age / Gender Chart March 07



- **HI Lo Study – Pender Street Clinic**

We have been approached by Dr. Conway UBC, Downtown Infection Disease Clinic, to participate in a Study Evaluating a Multi Disciplinary Approach for the Treatment of Hepatitis C in Injection Drug User's, comparing high and low intensity delivery programs. 4 Canadian Clinics will be participating in this study, 1) VANCOUVER - Pender Community Health Clinic, 2) Yale Medical Centre, 3) VICTORIA – Cool-Aid Community Health Centre, 4) NANAIMO - AVI Health Centre. This will be a published study when completed. We are very excited about participating in this formal study.

Please see **Charts #3 & #4** for a look at our Hepatitis C treatment program.

The Team

Dr. Keith Phillips, our senior physician since Dec. 1 2003, is an established addictions specialist and family doctor practicing in Nanaimo. He brings extensive knowledge and experience in the field, and is committed to helping people improve the quality of their lives. He is the lead physician for our Hepatitis C treatment patients. He treats over 50 of our patients and the majority of the HCV treatment patients, **working 3 sessions a week**.

Dr. Mary Winder, a family doctor with a private practice in Nanaimo, brings with her much knowledge and experience in the area of Methadone treatment. She continues to be an active and great asset to our team. She treats about 35 of our patients, **working 1 session a week**.

Dr. Rick Roe, the newest member of our team, has a private practice in Nanaimo, and also works at the local Correctional Centre and Detox. We were very pleased to have him join our team. He now treats over 40 of our patients, **working 1 session a week**.

Munro Mabey, our addictions counsellor is an integral part of the care team providing intake and counselling for clients and brings consistency and strength to the Health Centre. Munro works **two days a week** to ensure that our services are available on a consistent basis. He brings with him more than 30 years of experience from the addictions field to assist our clients achieve their personal and health goals.

Fran Falconer our Hepatitis C support nurse, works very closely with Dr. Phillips providing Hepatitis C patient education and information as well as administering treatment to patients at the Health Centre. Providing Hepatitis C treatment through the AVI Health Centre has given Dr. Phillips and Fran Falconer RN the ability to provide what is termed as DOT or Directly Observed Therapy, which is a unique, and extremely effective way to deliver this challenging treatment. Fran works **1 day a week**.

Tammy Paton our medical office assistant and receptionist offers a warm and stable front office environment and enjoys contact with our patients, as they do with her. Tammy's background working in the reproductive health field has also proven to be a great asset as we are now set up to do annual exams and STI testing and treatment. Tammy works **4 – 4.5 days a week**.

Dana Becker, Executive Assistant with AIDS Vancouver Island manages the Health Centre providing team support and facilitation, clinic fee and Medical Services Plan billing, staff contracts, pharmaceutical grants, and relief for the Medical Office Assistant. She also provides patient intakes, information technology support as well as all handy work and repairs. Dana appreciates the assistance she receives from George and Bryson regarding financial and other management issues. **Dana is available 4 days a week.**

Together the AVI Health Centre staff makes an effective and caring team, providing a high standard of health care to this high-risk and complex population.

Submitted by Dana Becker –

**Executive Assistant, AIDS Vancouver Island
Manager, AVI Health Centre**

March 31, 2007

140

120

100

80

60

40

20

0

2006

2007

■ Total Patients
■ HCV Treatment
■ HIV +

107

7

7

135

17

7

HEPATITIS C TREATMENT - PATIENT PROGRESS

April 1 2006 - March 31 2007														
Dr.	Rx	Patient	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
KP	TRO	1	DC											
MW	TRO	2	24											
RR	TRO	3	24											
KP	TRO	4	24											
KP	SYS	5	24											
KP	TRO	6		1	24									
KP	TRO	7		1	24									
KP	SYS	8		1	24									
KP	SYS	9				1	24							
KP	SYS	10				1	24							
KP	TRO	11						1	24					
MW	TRO	12										1	24	
KP	TRO	13											1	24
MW	PEG	14											1	24
KP	PEG	15											1	24
KP	TRO	16												1 24
RR	PEG	17												1 24
24 or 48 week treatment is determined by Genotype or if dually infected with HIV.														
(D/S = discontinued) CHART #4														