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# Fighting Virus C nearing success

**THE** high incidence of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) has motivated Egypt to produce and introduce new and inexpensive treatments. Almost a dozen local companies are already producing licensed generic versions of a new generation of game-changing, orally-administered drugs called Direct Antiviral Agents (DAA), recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

A few days ago a joint Egyptian-Indian venture celebrated the inauguration of their production of the revolutionary second generation of Virus C treatments which will be available in pharmacies in Egypt for LE1100 while they cost much higher abroad.

According to a deal struck with the original US producer of the Virus C treatment, Egyptian products cannot be exported or traded outside Egypt.

The company also gave its

own products to the Egyptian Health Ministry at a 99 per cent discount because of the epidemic status of the disease in Egypt as so estimated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Egypt's success in contracting the local manufacturing of anti-Virus C medication and the provision of caring treatment probably explain the recent media reports suggesting that even some foreign patients are seeking medical treatment from Virus C in Egypt, motivated not only by the considerably low cost of the treatment and convalescence, but also by the great experience that Egyptian doctors have accumulated with regard to liver diseases.

A Health Ministry official has indicated in published statements that the plans now under way to treat Virus C patients would lead to declaring Egypt fully free of this disease by the year 2022.



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