CLAIMS:

1. Use of L-ornithine phenylacetate in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or ameliorating hepatic encephalopathy in a patient in need thereof, wherein the medicament is to be administered in conjunction with a hepatic encephalopathy staging tool which is used for

assessing or receiving information on the severity of hepatic encephalopathy, said staging tool comprising a first criterion, a second criterion, a third criterion and a fourth criterion;

wherein the first criterion comprises a first set of factual questions and the first criterion is met when the patient verbally answers all the factual questions correctly, or when the patient verbally answers only one factual question incorrectly;

wherein the second criterion comprises a second set of factual questions and the second criterion is met when the patient answers two or more factual questions incorrectly;

wherein the third criterion is met when at least one symptom is observed in the patient, said symptom selected from the group consisting of stupor, severe drowsiness, obvious confusion, and gross disorientation;

and wherein the fourth criterion is met when the patient is in a coma;

wherein the severity of hepatic encephalopathy comprises a first stage, a second stage, a third stage, and a fourth stage; wherein the first stage of hepatic encephalopathy is defined by meeting the first criterion, the second stage of hepatic encephalopathy is defined by meeting the second criterion, the third stage of hepatic encephalopathy is defined by meeting the third criterion, and the fourth stage of hepatic encephalopathy is defined by meeting the fourth criterion;

wherein the patient has hyperammonemia and has had at least one episode of hepatic encephalopathy; and

wherein the assessing or receiving information determines the effectiveness of the hepatic encephalopathy treatment based on changes in the baseline hepatic encephalopathy stage after the treatment.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein said use is based on the assessed severity of hepatic encephalopathy.

3. The use of claim 1 or 2, wherein the hepatic encephalopathy staging tool is further used for adjusting the amount of the L-ornithine phenylacetate based on the effectiveness of the hepatic encephalopathy treatment.

4. The use of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the first stage of hepatic encephalopathy has two sub-stages.

5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the first set factual questions and the second set of factual questions each comprises inquiry to the patient's name, residence, birthday, time, present location, or combinations thereof.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein the first set of factual questions and the second set of factual questions each comprises five to seven questions.

7. The use of claim 5 or 6, wherein the first set of factual questions are the same as the second set of factual questions.

8. The use of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the patient has acute liver failure or chronic liver disease.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the patient has liver cirrhosis or liver decompensation.

10. The use of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein L-ornithine phenylacetate is for oral administration or intravenous infusion.