What is Claimed is:

1. Use of pirfenidone in preparation of a medicament for treating idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), in a patient that exhibits (i) percent of predicted forced vital capacity volume (%FVC) ranging from about 50% to about 90%, (ii) ratio of forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) to forced vital capacity volume (FVC) of about 0.80 or greater; and (iii) time since IPF diagnosis > 0.5 years and <48 months.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the patient exhibits a diffusion capacity (%DLco) ranging from about 30% to about 90%.

3. The use of claim 1, wherein the pirfenidone is to be administered at a total daily dosage of at least about 1800 mg.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein the pirfenidone is to be administered at a total daily dosage of about 2403 mg.

5. The use of claim 1 or claim 4 wherein the pirfenidone is to be administered to the patient three times per day, with food.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the pirfenidone comprises a deuterated pirfenidone.