

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# HEPATITIS C

## What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a virus that attacks the liver. The liver acts as the body's filter by removing toxins (harmful substances) from anything you eat, drink, inhale, inject, or put into your body.

## Did You Know?

The liver is essential to your health. The liver helps with digestion and blood clotting.



You cannot survive without your liver!

## Symptoms of Hepatitis C



yellowing of skin or eyes (jaundice)



stomach pain



nausea or vomiting



tiredness



fever



loss of appetite



Dark pee, pale poop, or diarrhea

## Acute Hepatitis C

- lasts 6 or less months
- Only 15-25% of people will experience symptoms
- Your body may clear the virus on its own without treatment
- Even if you cleared the virus on your own or through treatment, you can still get HCV again

# VS

## Chronic Hepatitis C

- Lifelong condition if not treated
- More than 50% of adults with acute HCV will develop chronic HCV
- If untreated, serious complications such as cirrhosis (scarring of liver), liver cancer, and even death can occur
- Treatment is curative and can prevent serious complications

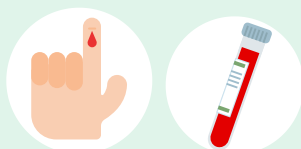
## Understanding Test Results

### Antibody (Screening)

- This test determines if you have ever been exposed to the hepatitis C virus.
- Once you have been diagnosed with hepatitis C, your antibody test will remain reactive (positive) for the rest of your life, even if you are treated and cured.

### Type of Tests

Fingerstick or Blood Draw



### RNA (Confirmatory)

- This test determines if you currently have hepatitis C virus in your body.
- If detected (positive), then you have the hepatitis C virus in your body and can spread the virus to others.
- If not detected (negative), then you do not have the hepatitis C virus in your body and cannot spread it to others.

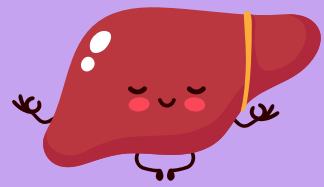
### Type of Test

Blood Draw



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# Preventing Hepatitis C

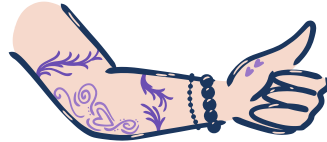


## How Does Hepatitis C Spread?

**1** Hepatitis C is spread when the blood of someone with hepatitis C mixes with tiny, invisible amounts of blood from someone without hepatitis C.

**2** Hepatitis C can also be passed during pregnancy and childbirth if the pregnant person has untreated hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C can also be spread through unsterile piercing and tattooing practices. Always go to a licensed facility.



## TREATMENT

- Liver damage can happen over months to years so early intervention is best.
- Hepatitis C treatment can be as simple as taking 1-3 pills a day for 2-3 months.
- Most people notice few to no side effects from treatment medications.
- Over 95% of people treated are cured.

### What Does Being Cured Mean?

- Hepatitis C virus is no longer in your blood.
- You will not be able to spread hepatitis C to others.
- You can get hepatitis C again if exposed, so protect yourself from coming into contact with anyone else's blood.

## REMEMBER

- Keep all your appointments, including those after completing treatment.
- Take medications as prescribed and follow your healthcare provider's instructions.

## Do NOT Share....

personal items that may come in contact with blood



Diabetic equipment



Nail clippers



Toothbrushes



Razors

injection or inhalation products



Medications or injected drugs



Nasal sprays or snorting straws

## How To Protect Your Loved Ones



Cover wounds



Use condoms during sex



Clean surfaces with bleach solution

## Get Tested, Treatment Cures!

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend all adults be tested for hepatitis C at least once in their lifetime.

Call your local health department to schedule your test today!

Scan or click to locate a health department near you!



**TALK. TEST. TREAT.**