

ASK YOUR COUNSELOR OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT HEP-C TESTING.

WHAT'S MY FIRST STEP?

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE HEP-C

- › The first test **SCREENS** for whether you have ever been exposed to the hepatitis C virus at any point in time
- › The second test **CONFIRMS** whether or not the virus is still in your body
- › If the second test is **POSITIVE**, you should be **TREATED** for Hep-C
- › The first and second tests can be done at the same time

HEP-C TREATMENT FACTS

- › Treatment may be as simple as 1 or 3 pills per day
- › The treatment course is short, only 8 to 12 weeks in most cases
- › Hep-C medications are safe and have very few side effects
- › Hep-C treatment is covered by most Medicaid programs, but some states may have restrictions

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER HEP-C IS CURED?

- › You can no longer transmit the virus to another person
- › Existing liver damage can potentially be reversed

BUT YOU COULD GET HEPATITIS C VIRUS AGAIN EVEN AFTER CURE!

**GET RETESTED AT LEAST ONCE A
YEAR — IF YOU CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN
ACTIVITIES THAT PUT YOU AT RISK FOR HEP C**

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- › **Don't share your works!** Don't share personal items!
- › Exchange your needles and syringes for clean equipment
- › Use condoms to prevent transmission of Hep-C, Hep-B, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases
- › Make sure your tattoo and piercing artist routinely uses sanitary practices

**GET TESTED. GET
GET TREATED. CURED!**



HEPATITIS C IS CURABLE.

**GOT IT?
TREAT IT!**

**INJECTION DRUG USE DOES NOT
DISQUALIFY YOU FROM TREATMENT,
AND DOES NOT DECREASE YOUR
CHANCE OF BEING CURED.**

WHAT IS HEP-C?

THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS (ALSO KNOWN AS HEP-C OR HCV) INFECTS, INFLAMES, AND DAMAGES THE LIVER

ACUTE (NEW) HEP-C INFECTION

- › In some cases, the virus is cleared from the body naturally within about 6 months
- › Most people **do not have** symptoms of acute Hep-C
- › However, some may have flu-like symptoms with yellowing of skin and eyes

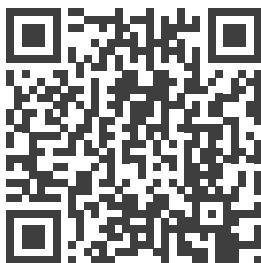
CHRONIC (LONG-TERM) HEP-C INFECTION

- › In up to 80% of infected persons, the hepatitis C virus remains in their bodies for the rest of their lives, unless treated
- › Many people may have no symptoms for decades
- › As the disease worsens, individuals develop symptoms caused by both liver damage and non-liver consequences of Hep-C infection

4 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE WITH HEP-C ARE UNAWARE THEY HAVE IT.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATUS?

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR RISK AND HOW TO GET TESTED HERE.



[www.exchangeeme.com/
project/bridgehcvtool](http://www.exchangeeme.com/project/bridgehcvtool)



WHO GETS HEP-C?

CURRENT OR PAST INJECTION DRUG USERS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY SHARE WORKS

- › **> 40% of injection drug users ACQUIRE Hep-C**
- › 1 in 3 people acquire Hep-C in the first year of injecting

PERSONS AGE 20-39 YEARS, MILLENNIALS, HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF HEP-C INFECTION

- › This age group also has the highest risk of injection drug use and overdose death in the US

ANYONE EXPOSED TO BLOOD INFECTED WITH HEP-C, EITHER THROUGH SEX, PREGNANCY, TATTOOING, PIERCING, OR SHARING OF PERSONAL ITEMS

- › **All pregnant women should be tested for HCV**

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

FOR EVERY 100 PEOPLE WITH HEP-C AND RECEIVING NO TREATMENT:

80 will develop chronic infection



52 will develop chronic liver disease



16 will develop cirrhosis



4 will die of cirrhosis or liver cancer

