

Hepatitis C Treatment

Is there a cure for hepatitis C?

Yes, hepatitis C can be cured! Almost everyone who takes hepatitis C medications is cured. This is true even if you were refused treatment in the past or if you had treatment that didn't work. Once cured, the virus won't "come back" unless you get reinfected.

How is hepatitis C treated?

Hepatitis C treatment has become much simpler. Most people do not need to see a specialist. They can be treated by their primary care provider.

Hepatitis C is treated with medications called direct acting antivirals or DAAs. These are easy to take - often one pill by mouth, once a day, for 8 to 12 weeks.

I don't feel sick, why should I get treated for hepatitis C?

You may not feel sick, but the virus is causing injury to your liver. Don't wait to start hepatitis C treatment. Curing your hepatitis C improves your health. It reduces your risk of liver damage, the need of a liver transplant, and premature death.

Treating your hepatitis C also protects your loved ones. Once cured, you cannot pass the virus to others.

Am I eligible for hepatitis C treatment?

Hepatitis C treatment is essential for your health. Everyone with hepatitis C is eligible for treatment, even if they use drugs or alcohol. Everyone deserves to be cured of hepatitis C. Talk with your health care provider about any concerns you have about starting treatment. Together, you can develop a plan to support your commitment to getting cured. If you are pregnant or nursing, talk with your health care provider about the possible risks and benefits of hepatitis C treatment so you can decide the best time for you to start your hepatitis C treatment.

What does my health care provider need to know before I start treatment?

There are guidelines for "simplified" hepatitis C treatment that make it easier to start treatment sooner.

Your health care provider will:

- Ask you about your medical history and your current health.
- Do a physical exam.
- Request simple blood tests to see if you have signs of liver injury or coinfection with hepatitis B or HIV. These will be considered when planning your treatment.
- Ask you about any prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

Do hepatitis C medications have side effects?

Most people have few to no side effects from taking hepatitis C medications. The most common side effects include tiredness and headaches, but they are usually manageable and go away within the first couple of weeks. Tell your health care provider if you have any side effects when you start taking your hepatitis C medication.

Will insurance cover hepatitis C treatment?

Medicaid and most insurance companies cover hepatitis C treatment. If you do not have insurance, or you are underinsured, talk to your health care provider about patient assistance programs that can help cover costs.

How will I know if I am cured?

Your health care provider will perform a hepatitis C viral load test 12 weeks (3 months) after you finish treatment.

- You are cured if the test does not detect hepatitis C virus in your blood.
- If there is still hepatitis C virus in your blood, you were not cured. Talk to your health care provider about the benefit of repeating hepatitis C treatment.

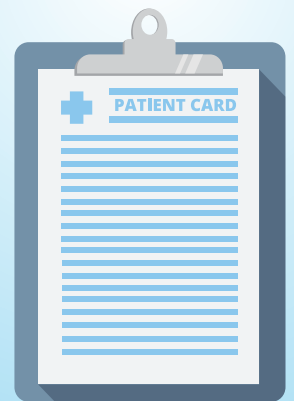
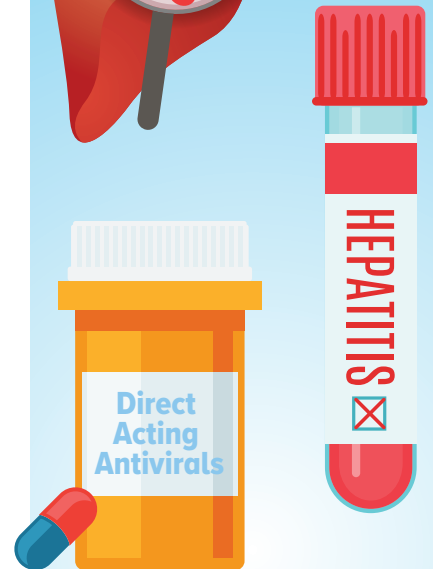
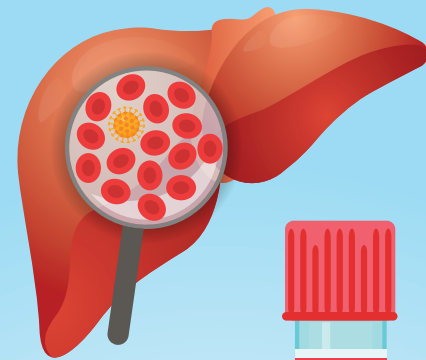
Can I get hepatitis C again after I am cured?

Being cured of hepatitis C infection does not protect you from getting reinfected with the virus in the future. Hepatitis C is passed only through blood contact. To protect yourself from getting hepatitis C again avoid sharing needles, syringes, drug use equipment, or personal care items that may have trace blood like razors or toothbrushes. Also, use condoms during sex.

Hepatitis C is not passed through casual contact such as kissing, touching, or sharing food.

How can I find a hepatitis C provider?

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute's online directory provides easy access and information regarding all participating hepatitis C providers across New York State. To find a hepatitis C provider, go to: <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstitute.ny.org>.



REMEMBER!

Hepatitis C treatment is essential for your health.

Don't wait to get tested, treated and cured!

Help NY eliminate

HEP C

Get tested. Get treated. Get cured.

health.ny.gov/nycureshepc



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