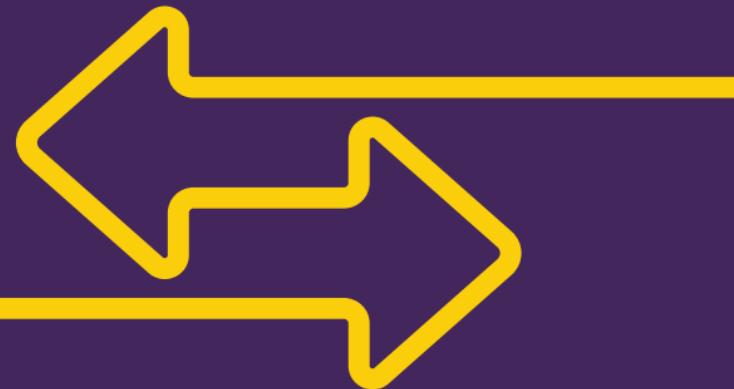


HIV and Hepatitis C

Coinfection



Treatment for People Living with HIV and Hepatitis C Coinfection

What is HIV/Hepatitis C Coinfection?

HIV and hepatitis C coinfection means that you are living with both HIV and hepatitis C.

HIV affects your immune system.

Hepatitis C is an infection that affects your liver. It is often called Hep C or HCV.

Hepatitis C progresses faster in people living with HIV. Curing your hepatitis C will improve your overall health.



If you have HIV/hepatitis C coinfection you are not alone.

- About 30% of people living with HIV also have Hepatitis C.
- The rate is even higher (50%-90%) for people living with HIV who have a history of injection drug use.

People living with HIV should know the facts.

People who engage in anal sex and are living with HIV are at greater risk of getting hepatitis C during sex. The risk is highest when blood is present during sex. This can occur during anal intercourse or rough sex. You can protect yourself from hepatitis C by using condoms, lots of lube, and preventing bleeding during sex.

New medications for hepatitis C have changed everything.

New Medications

- 90%-100% cure rates
- Few or no side effects
- Almost everyone can benefit from treatment

Old Medications

- Not very effective
- Serious side effects
- Risks outweighed benefits for most people

How do I find out if I have HIV/hepatitis C coinfection?

- Screening for hepatitis C is a regular part of health care for all people living with HIV.
- Screening for HIV is a regular part of health care for all people living with hepatitis C.
- Ask your health care provider to test you for both HIV and hepatitis C. Talk to your provider about your test results so you can know your status.

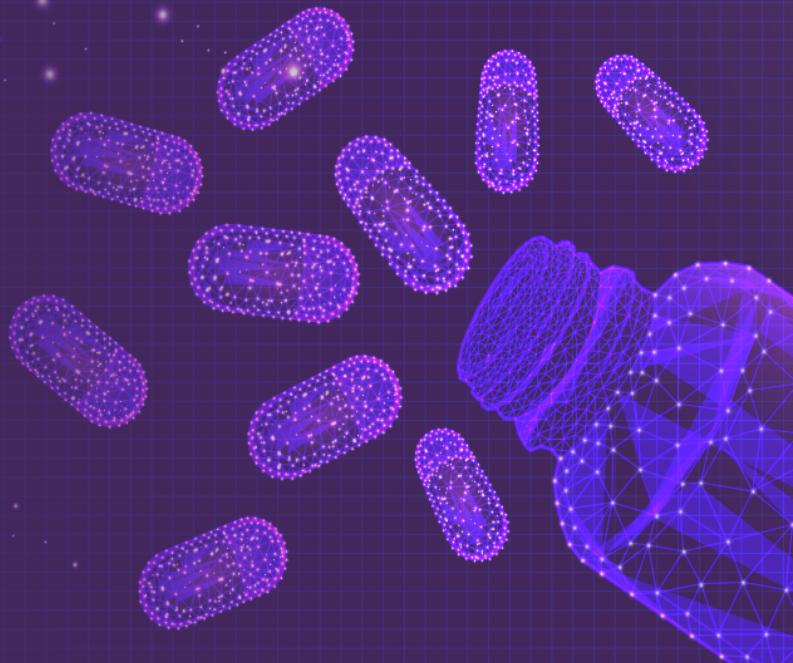
Talk with your health care provider about hepatitis C treatment.

If you have HIV/hepatitis C coinfection, talk to your health care provider about the new treatments. In some cases, they may refer you to a hepatitis C expert.

If treatment cures your hepatitis C, it will improve your overall health. And it will be one less thing to worry about.

Are the new treatments for hepatitis C expensive?

Hepatitis C medications are now much less expensive. Most health insurance will pay for them, including Medicaid and Medicare. If you do not have insurance, there are resources to help you pay. Ask your health care provider for more information.



Keep your liver healthy.

- Avoid or reduce your alcohol consumption.
- Make sure you are vaccinated against hepatitis A and B.
- Eat healthy, exercise and get enough rest.
- See your health care provider for regular checkups.
- Ask your health care provider before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medications, supplements, or vitamins.

Avoid reinfection.

Medications can cure you of hepatitis C, but they don't protect you from getting reinfected. Avoid reinfection. Do not share injection equipment like needles, syringes, cotton, cookers, and water. Also, use condoms and lots of lube during sex.



Resources

For more information, please call or visit:

AIDS Hotline: 1-800-541-AIDS (English)

1-800-233-SIDA (Spanish)

HCV: health.ny.gov/hepatitis

HIV: health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/index.htm

PrEP: health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/index.htm#prep

STIs: health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/

Drug User Health: health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/

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