

Important things to remember:

- The medication must be taken every day and you cannot share your medication with other people.
- **You will need a blood test at least 4 weeks after you finish treatment, to tell if you have been cured.**
- If you have liver cirrhosis your GP will discuss with you any lifestyle changes you may need to do and refer you to a liver specialist for follow up.
- You can be re-infected with Hepatitis C. **There is no Hepatitis C vaccine** therefore, you need to avoid blood contact, for example:
 - Do not have contact with anyone else's blood. You should not share razors, toothbrushes or needles.
 - Cover your cuts or wounds using band aids, and wear gloves when cleaning up any blood.
 - If having medical, dental, cosmetic procedures, tattooing or acupuncture overseas, check that there is good infection control to prevent you from being infected by blood from another person.



Contact Us

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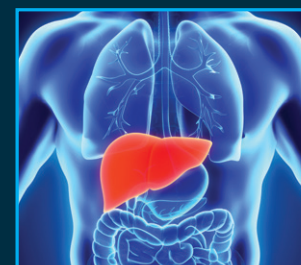
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Council of Queensland

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Liver Disease Hepatitis C



Have you and your family been tested for Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a **liver disease** caused by the Hepatitis C virus. People with Hepatitis C often don't look or feel sick. You can only get Hepatitis C from blood to blood contact, including unsterile medical, dental, and cosmetic equipment, as well as unsterile tools used for traditional and cultural practices that break the skin, but **NOT** from social contact such as sharing food, shaking hands, kissing, cuddling, sneezing, sharing cups, etc.

Untreated Hepatitis C can cause liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and death.

What can you do?

- See your GP and ask for a specific **Hepatitis C blood test**. It is the only way to find out if you have Hepatitis C.
- If you have Hepatitis C, a GP, specialist or a trained nurse practitioner can arrange treatment for you.
- You will need to have further tests, including hepatitis B, before you can be treated.
- Treatment is easy, for most people taking only 2 or 3 months.
- The treatment has very few side effects, and more than 95% of people will be **cured** after finishing treatment.

How much does treatment for Hepatitis C cost?

- Treatment for Hepatitis C is funded by the government in Australia.
- **If you have a Medicare Card it will cost less than \$100 for the treatment and if you have a concession card (such as a Seniors Card or Health Care Card), it will cost less than \$25 for the treatment.**
- If you don't have a Medicare card you cannot get government funded Hepatitis C treatment, you may be able to purchase treatment online through sites such as www.fixhepc.com.au.

