

Let's talk about

Hepatitis C

What is hepatitis C?



- Hepatitis C virus (HCV) attacks the liver.
- HCV is most commonly spread through direct blood-to-blood contact.
 - This means the blood of someone who is infected with HCV must directly enter your bloodstream.
 - Common ways this happens is by sharing syringes and injection equipment, or during pregnancy.
- **People with HCV may feel healthy for years**, but over time HCV can cause liver damage, cancer, and death.
- There is no vaccine to prevent HCV, but there are treatment options.



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

Should I get tested?



- U.S. CDC recommends testing:
 - At least once in a lifetime for **all adults** aged 18 years and older
 - All pregnant people during **each pregnancy**
 - Routine periodic testing for people with ongoing risk factors
- A blood test is used to look for HCV.

What treatment options are available?



- Treatment with antiviral medication can **cure** HCV.
 - After treatment, the virus is no longer present in your body.
 - If you are cured, you no longer pass the virus onto others.
- **Treatment is quick and easy.**
- You do not need to be in recovery or no longer using to get treatment.
- If you're concerned about cost, ask a health care provider for more information about options for support.