

Hepatitis C



The most common bloodborne infection in the U.S. is curable!

Hepatitis C (HCV) Basics



What is Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)?

A virus that lives in the blood & damages the liver.

SILENT KILLER

HCV is a slow progressing disease that can cause liver damage, liver failure, and many other health problems.

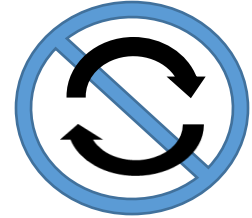
BUT many people don't experience symptoms.



Transmission

HCV is spread through blood contact.

Transmission can happen through things like needle sharing, unsterile tattoos, blood transfusions before 1992, and even fist fights.



Prevention

Protect yourself. Avoid getting HCV or passing it to someone else.

Don't:

- Share needles, cookers, cottons, or other works
- Share straws or other equipment for snorting drugs
- Get tattoos/piercings in unsterile settings like prisons.

Even if you have HCV, follow prevention strategies to reduce the chance of passing it to someone else or getting other infections like Hepatitis B, HIV, or Endocarditis.

STOP
Transmission



Get Tested

First Test:

A HCV Antibody Test checks to see if you've ever had HCV.

If the Antibody Test result is positive, then you'll need to get a follow up test called a HCV Viral Load.



Check Viral Load

Second Test:

A HCV Viral Load Test checks to see if you currently have HCV.

Sometimes, the body can fight off HCV on its own within 6 months of exposure. This only happens to about 25% of those with HCV.



Get Cured!

See a doctor:

If a viral load test finds HCV in your blood, there are medications that can cure the virus.

You can see a specialist doctor who treats HCV.

Learn more about HCV Treatment →

Hepatitis C Treatment

Everyone deserves to be cured of hepatitis C (HCV)!

HCV is curable

Today, people can be cured of HCV with as little as one pill a day for 8 weeks.



Treatment is safe & effective

New medications for HCV are very effective and have few side effects.

The old treatment for HCV, called Interferon, had many harmful side effects and didn't work for many people. Interferon is no longer used to treat HCV.



Substance use does not disqualify you

You do not have to be sober or stop using drugs to get treatment for HCV.

Treatment guidelines recommend that everyone with HCV receive treatment – including people who currently use drugs or have in the past.

Doctors at the Denver Public Health Center for Positive Health want to treat you!

Steps for HCV Treatment

- After a reactive or positive HCV antibody test, the next step is to get a HCV viral load test.
- This test will confirm if you have HCV.

1. Viral Load Test

- The next step is to see a doctor who treats HCV at Denver Public Health.
- The doctor evaluates your liver and runs other tests.
- You may need to get vaccinations for Hepatitis A & Hepatitis B.
- The specialist prescribes a medication.

2. Center for Positive Health Doctor

- Medications can be paid for by Medicaid or insurance.
- Treatment is taking 1 pill each day for 8-12 weeks.
- There are additional blood tests & check ups during treatment.
- If a viral load is undetected 12 weeks after finishing treatment, you are cured.

3. HCV Treatment



Liver Health
Connection
Helpline
800-522-4372

Get Started

Call the **Center for Positive Health** at Denver Public Health to schedule an appointment:

1. Call 303-602-8710 (press option #6)
2. Request a Hepatitis C Consultation

Wait times for appointments vary. It will probably be several weeks before an appointment.

The Center for Positive Health is located at 605 Bannock St, 5th Floor, Denver, CO.