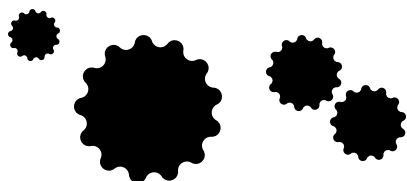


Hepatitis C

Fact Sheet



Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV).



Hepatitis C spreads primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person.

Common Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Feeling Very Tired



Loss of Appetite



Nausea and Vomiting



Abdominal Pain



Dark Urine

Signs and symptoms of hepatitis C can also include clay-colored bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice (yellow color in the skin or eyes).

Most people do not show any signs or symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually start six to seven weeks after exposure, but can range from two weeks to six months.



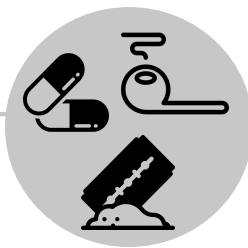
Talk to a health care provider if you think you have hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is diagnosed with blood tests.

There are several medications available to treat and cure hepatitis C. This treatment takes about 8-12 weeks. Early treatment can prevent serious complications like liver scarring, liver cancer, and death.

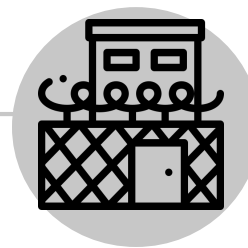
Hepatitis C Risk Factors



People Who Use Injection Drugs



People Who Use Non-Injection Drugs



People Who Are or Were Incarcerated



People Who Have Multiple Sex Partners



People Who Received a Tattoo with Non-Sterile Instruments



People Who Were Born to a Mother with Hepatitis C Virus

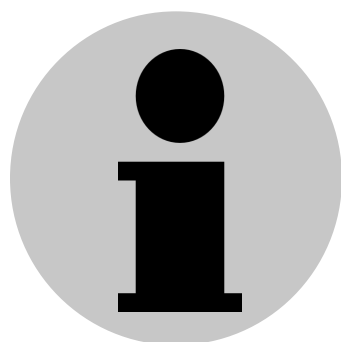
Other risk factors include:

- Baby Boomers, or those born between 1946 and 1964
- Needlestick injuries in healthcare settings
- Sharing personal care items that may have come into contact with another person's blood, such as razors or toothbrushes

US CDC recommends universal testing of all adults age 18 years and older at least once in their lifetime, and routine testing of people with ongoing risk factors.

Unlike hepatitis A and hepatitis B, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis
2. www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.