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 your doctor if you think you have hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is diagnosed with blood tests.

There is no specific treatment for acute hepatitis C, but several drugs are available to treat chronic hepatitis C.
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

For More Information, Visit:

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

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