

## What You Need To Know About The Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

### If You Have Hepatitis C...

- Avoid sharing needles for injecting drugs, tattooing, piercing or any other reason
- Do not share razors, toothbrushes or nail clippers
- Avoid alcohol
- Get vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B
- Join a support group
- Get regular health checkups
- Use a latex condom when having sex
- Discuss treatment options with your health care provider



[www.flahepatitis.org](http://www.flahepatitis.org)



## What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is spread through contact with infected blood. Many people with HCV will carry the virus for a lifetime. It can cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer and death. Symptoms may include:

- Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Feeling very tired
- Stomach pain
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite

## Who Should Be Tested For HCV?

- All Baby Boomers born from 1945–1965
- Anyone who had a blood transfusion before 1992
- People who inject drugs, even once many years ago
- Persons with hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS
- Persons who were ever on long-term hemodialysis

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[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/)



## How Do You Get HCV?

- Sharing injection drug equipment, even once many years ago
- Receiving blood transfusion before 1992
- Occupational needle-stick
- Long term hemodialysis
- Infected mother to her infant
- Sexual transmission (not common, however, some sexual practices may involve blood)

