

# We Treat Hepatitis C

## Patient Fact Sheet

### **Hepatitis C**

Hepatitis C, a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus, is usually spread when someone comes into contact with blood from an infected person. This can happen through the sharing of drug injection or preparation equipment, through birth from mother to baby, healthcare exposures, sex with an infected person, unregulated tattoos or body piercings, sharing personal care items, and through blood transfusions and organ transplants before 1992<sup>1</sup>.

For reasons that are not known, less than half of people who get hepatitis C are able to clear, or get rid of, the virus without treatment in the first 6 months after infection. Most people who get infected, however, will develop a chronic, or lifelong, infection. Left untreated, chronic hepatitis C can cause serious health problems including liver disease, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death. Many people with hepatitis C do not have symptoms and do not feel sick. When symptoms do appear, however, they often are a sign of advanced liver disease<sup>1</sup>.

### **Who should be tested for Hepatitis C?**

Getting tested is the only way to know if you have hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis C testing if you:

- Are 18 years of age and older
- Are pregnant (get tested during every pregnancy)
- Currently inject drugs (get tested regularly)
- Have ever injected drugs, even if it was just once or many years ago
- Were born to a mother with hepatitis C
- Have HIV
- Received clotting factor concentrates before 1987
- Are on hemodialysis
- Have abnormal liver tests or liver disease
- Have been exposed to blood from a person who has hepatitis C
- Received donated blood or organs before July 1992

**Talk to your healthcare provider about getting tested for hepatitis C.**

### **Hepatitis C Treatment**

There is no vaccine for hepatitis C; however, there are all-oral treatments available that can cure hepatitis C infection in as little as eight to 12 weeks. These treatments, called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) have minimal side effects and cure rates greater than 95%. If you have been diagnosed with hepatitis C, talk to your health care provider about treatment options.


# We Treat Hep C

To eliminate HCV in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched the We Treat Hep C Initiative on April 1, 2021 to make hepatitis C treatment more accessible among people enrolled in Michigan Medicaid and the Healthy Michigan Plan. As part of the initiative, Michigan Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees can be treated for their hepatitis C infection regardless of their recent or current substance use or liver damage. In addition, enrollees may be treated by non-specialists for their hepatitis C infection, including primary care and advanced practice providers. To find a hepatitis C treatment provider near you, [please visit the Hepatitis C Treatment Provider Map at Michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC](https://www.michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC).

## Resources For The Public

- ✓ [Hepatitis C Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Spanish version](#)
- ✓ [Understanding Hepatitis C Testing](#)
  - [Spanish version](#)
- ✓ [MiBridges Health Insurance Coverage - Online Application](#)
- ✓ [Help-4-Hep Peer Hepatitis C Support Line](#)
- ✓ [Hepatitis C Doctor Discussion Guide](#)
- ✓ [Mavyret® Copay Card](#)
- ✓ [Mavyret® Nurse Ambassador Program](#)

## Contact Information

-  [If you have questions or are experiencing issues with obtaining hepatitis C testing and treatment, please e-mail MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov)
-  [To apply for Medicaid benefits or seek help, visit Michigan.gov/Medicaid](https://www.michigan.gov/Medicaid)
-  [To find a syringe service program \(SSP\) near you, please visit the SSP Directory <https://bit.ly/SyringeServiceProgram>](https://bit.ly/SyringeServiceProgram)
-  [To find a hepatitis C treatment provider near you, please visit Michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC](https://www.michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC)

## References

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Hepatitis C Questions and Answers for the Public. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm>.