

Have You Been Exposed?

CDC recommends everyone at risk and those born from 1945-1965 get a one-time test for hepatitis C.

The hepatitis C virus was first identified in 1989; a test to detect exposure to HCV became available in 1992. The hepatitis C virus is very easily transmitted by contact with infected blood. Anyone who received a blood transfusion or other blood products prior to 1992 may have unknowingly been exposed to HCV and should be tested.

Are you at Risk? If the risk fits, Get tested!

- born from 1945- 1965
- blood transfusion, blood products (plasma, immune globulin, platelets, etc.) or organ transplant from infected donor, especially prior to 1992
- injecting drug use and other shared drug paraphernalia
- exposure to others' blood through shared needles or drug paraphernalia (even many years ago and even if it was only once) may be the source of hepatitis C infection.
- exposure to infected blood through occupation, manicures, pedicures, piercings, tattoos, sports, sharing personal care items (razors, toothbrushes, etc.)
- unsterile medical injections or poorly sterilized medical equipment
 - *Although most medical facilities go to great lengths to be sure all equipment is sterilized, there have been reported cases of hepatitis C traced back to the use of reused or incompletely sterilized medical equipment.*
- birth to an HCV-infected mother
 - *The risk of transmission from a mother with hepatitis C to her baby is approximately 5-10%. The risk is higher if the mother is also infected with HIV. The risk of transmission from mother to baby is not affected by the delivery method.*
- sex with infected partner
 - *This is an uncommon route of transmitting the hepatitis C virus, especially among long-term monogamous couples. The risk of sexual transmission is increased among people with multiple sexual partners, and when sexual practices result in blood-to-blood exposure.*
- combat exposure
- incarceration

Ask your doctor for the test. If you do not have health insurance, visit www.hepcchallenge.org to find an HCV screening site near you.

No one is immune to hepatitis C.