

Caring Ambassadors Hepatitis C Program

Should You Be Tested For Hepatitis C?



What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The hepatitis C virus can slowly cause liver damage over many years without causing any symptoms. The liver can eventually be damaged to the point that it can no longer perform its many jobs.

There is **no vaccine** to prevent hepatitis C, but medical treatments are available to help prevent severe liver damage.

How Do You Get Hepatitis C?

Since people with hepatitis C generally do not feel sick, people can have the virus and unknowingly spread it to others. The hepatitis C virus is spread by **blood-to-blood contact**.

The following series of questions will help you determine if you may have been exposed to the hepatitis C virus. People who may have been exposed to HCV should be tested.

Could You Have Been Exposed to the Hepatitis C Virus?

Check the box next to each statement that applies to you.

- I have had a blood transfusion (blood, plasma, or platelets).⁽¹⁾
- I received blood products (immunoglobulin, anti-Rh factor, or clotting factors).⁽²⁾
- I was born between 1945 and 1965
- I am a hemophiliac.
- I have had kidney dialysis.
- I have had injections, surgery, or dental work done outside the U.S.
- My mother has hepatitis C.
- I live with now (or have lived with) someone with hepatitis C.
- I have injected street drugs (even once, even if it was many years ago).⁽³⁾
- I have injected steroids, hormones, or silicone.⁽³⁾
- I have snorted street drugs (even once, even if it was many years ago).
- I am a military veteran.^(4,5)
- I have (or have had) a job that exposed me to blood (examples include medical and dental workers, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, and EMT's).⁽⁶⁾
- I have been exposed to another person's blood through a contaminated needle stick injury, blood splash to the eyes, mouth, or on to broken skin.
- I have been incarcerated.⁽⁷⁾
- I participate or used to participate in a recreational activity (contact sports) that may have exposed me to blood.
- I have shared personal hygiene equipment such as a razor, toothbrush, or nail clippers with others.
- I have a tattoo.^(8,9)
- I have had a body piercing (includes ears).⁽¹⁰⁾
- I share body piercing jewelry with others.
- I have had multiple sexual partners (10 or more sexual partners in my lifetime)⁽¹¹⁾
- I have had more than 1 sexual partner in the last 6 months.
- I have been exposed to blood during sexual activity.
- I have had sex with a person known to be positive for hepatitis C.
- I have been treated for a sexually transmitted disease (examples include chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis).
- I have had abnormal liver blood tests.
- I have been vaccinated for hepatitis A or hepatitis B.
- I have been tested for hepatitis C in the past.⁽¹²⁾
- What do you expect your result to be from today's test? Positive Negative Don't know
- None of the above applies to me, but I would still like to be screened for hepatitis C.

Contact Information: Please PRINT Clearly.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Sex: male female I am currently pregnant.

Race: Caucasian African-American Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other

Mailing Address: _____ Apartment Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ - _____ OK to leave message? yes no

Stop Here

PIN _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Date: ___/___/___

Event # _____

The hepatitis C antibody test is a screening test to find out if you have ever been exposed to the hepatitis C virus. It cannot determine whether you still have the hepatitis C virus in your system.

If your test result is indeterminate or positive, you must have additional testing to see if the hepatitis C virus is still in your system. This testing can be performed by your doctor. A Caring Ambassadors Hepatitis C Program counselor will call you to let you know what you should do next if your test result is indeterminate or positive.

Informed Consent

I authorize the Caring Ambassadors Hepatitis C Program to collect blood for hepatitis C antibody testing, and to give me my test results by mail if negative, or by telephone if the results are positive or indeterminate.

Client Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___

Counselor Signature: _____

Supplemental Information

1. Did you receive a blood transfusion before 1992? after 1992?
2. Did you receive blood products before 1992? after 1992?
3. When injecting how often did you share equipment with others? Regularly Occasionally Rarely Never
4. Were you in combat? yes no
5. When did you serve in the military before Vietnam? during Vietnam? after Vietnam?
6. Job held Police Officer Firefighter Paramedic or EMT Medical or Dental worker Corrections officer
7. How long were you incarcerated? _____
8. Is your tattoo more than 5 years old? yes no
9. Where did you get your tattoo? tattoo shop In jail or prison From a friend Other
10. Where did you get your piercing? piercing shop In jail or prison From a friend Other
11. How many sexual partners have you had in your lifetime? _____
12. What was your previous test result? Positive Negative Indeterminate unknown