

# Liver clinics and treatment



FACTSHEET 34

Hepatitis Council of Qld

## TREATMENT

Treatment (pegylated interferon and ribavirin combination therapy) is highly effective;

- **About 80% of people with genotype 2 and/or 3, and**
- **50% of people with genotype 1, who finish treatment will clear the virus.**

A person's response to treatment is related to several factors:

- **Genotype** – people with genotypes 2 and 3 have been shown to have a higher response rate;
- Degree of **fibrosis** – people with advanced liver disease respond less well;
- **Viral load** – the lower the amount of virus, the more likely it is that treatment will clear the virus;
- **Age** – younger people are more likely to respond to treatment;
- **Sex** – women are more likely than men to respond to treatment;
- **Weight** – people who are overweight tend to respond less well to treatment; and
- **Rapid Virological Response (RVR)** – people who respond early to treatment are more likely to clear the virus.

Before you can see a liver specialist to talk about going on treatment, you will need to get a referral from your GP first. During your visits to see the specialist they will usually;

- **Obtain your medical and social history;**
- **Discuss the natural history of hepatitis C (progression of the virus in your body);**
- **Talk about ways you can manage your health;**
- **Go over treatment options;**
- **Order blood tests (and possibly an ultrasound); and**
- **Establish what extent hepatitis C has impacted on your wellbeing.**

## Shared care

Shared Care involves you, your General Practitioner (GP), specialist, liver clinic nurse and allied health staff caring for you during treatment. Your GP provides most of your day-to-day care; they communicate with the specialist and your nurse throughout hepatitis C antiviral therapy and management. This allows your GP, specialist and nurse to be informed as to the progress of your treatment. As your GP already knows you and your medical history, they are likely to be more aware of your individual needs.

Shared Care is usually considered convenient as general practice hours of business tend to be more flexible and closer to where you live. This may help to reduce the impact on your day-to-day life while you are having antiviral therapy.

## LIVER CLINICS IN QLD

### Brisbane

#### Greenslopes Private Hospital – Liver Clinic

(Greenslopes is available to public patients through Medicare)  
Suite 322

Ramsay Specialist Centre  
Newdegate Street

Greenslopes QLD 4120

Telephone: **3394 7060**

Web: [www.greenslopesprivate.com.au](http://www.greenslopesprivate.com.au)

#### Mater Misericordiae Adult Hospital – Liver Clinic

Gastroenterology Department  
Level 3

Raymond Terrace  
South Brisbane QLD 4101

Main Reception: **3163 8111** (ask for the Liver Clinic)

Web: [www.mater.org.au](http://www.mater.org.au)

"Best of all I now feel clearheaded and I feel a general calmness that I haven't experienced in years. This is a big difference from the way I felt before treatment"

*The ABC of Hepatitis Training Package is an initiative of Queensland Health through funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing under the National Hepatitis C Prevention and Education Initiative*

Updated: 21 October 2009

For more information [www.hepqld.asn.au](http://www.hepqld.asn.au)  
or Hepatitis Council of Qld info line **1800 648 491**

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### **Princess Alexandra Hospital – Hepatitis Management Clinic**

Ground Level  
2 Burke St  
Woolloongabba QLD 4102  
Main Reception: **3240 2111**  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/pahospital/](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/pahospital/)

### **Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital**

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department  
Level 9  
Ned Hanlon Building  
Butterfield Street  
Herston QLD 4006  
Telephone: **3636 2656**  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/default.asp)

### **Bundaberg**

#### **Bundaberg Hospital – Liver Clinic**

Level 2, Q-Clinic  
271 Bourbong Street  
Bundaberg QLD 4670  
Telephone: **4150 2754**  
Main Reception: (07) 4152 1222  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/widebay\\_bundy\\_hosp.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/widebay_bundy_hosp.asp)

### **Cairns**

#### **Cairns Base Hospital**

Liver Clinic Outpatients Department  
B Block, Level 4  
The Esplanade  
Cairns QLD 4870  
Telephone: (07) 4050 6669  
Main Reception: **4050 6333**  
Web: [www.cairnshealthonline.com/hospitals](http://www.cairnshealthonline.com/hospitals)

### **Gold Coast**

#### **Gold Coast Liver Centre – Gold Coast Centre for Digestive Diseases**

Brockway House  
82 Queen Street  
Southport QLD 4215  
Telephone: **5591 4455** or **5591 3155**  
Web: [www.thelivercentre.com.au](http://www.thelivercentre.com.au)

#### **Gold Coast Hospital – Gastroenterology and Hepatology Liver Clinic**

108 Nerang Street  
Southport QLD 4215  
Main Reception: **5519 8211** (*ask for the Liver Clinic*)  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/gcoast\\_gcoast\\_hosp.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/gcoast_gcoast_hosp.asp)

### **Mackay**

#### **Mackay Liver Clinic**

Specialist Outpatients Department  
Mackay Base Hospital  
475 Bridge Road  
Mackay QLD 4740  
Main Reception: **4968 6000** (*ask for the Liver Clinic*)  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/mackay\\_mackay\\_hosp.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/mackay_mackay_hosp.asp)

### **Rockhampton**

#### **Rockhampton Hepatitis Service**

Sandrock House  
8 Canning Street  
Rockhampton QLD 4700  
Telephone: **4920 5555**  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/help/rockhampton.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/help/rockhampton.asp)

### **Sunshine Coast**

#### **Nambour General Hospital – Liver Clinic**

Hospital Road  
Nambour QLD 4560  
Telephone: **0439 709 764** or **0414 269 386**  
Main Reception: 5470 6600  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/sunshine\\_C\\_nambour\\_hosp.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/sunshine_C_nambour_hosp.asp)

### **Toowoomba**

#### **Kobi House – Toowoomba Base Hospital**

2 Pechey Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone: **4616 6446**  
Mobile: 0407 626 746  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/twmba\\_twmba\\_hosp.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/wwwprofiles/twmba_twmba_hosp.asp)

### **Townsville**

#### **Townsville Hospital – Liver Clinic**

Level 1  
100 Angus Smith Drive  
Douglas QLD 4814  
Telephone: **4796 2536** or **0428 739 935**  
Main Reception: 4796 1111  
Web: [www.health.qld.gov.au/townsville/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/townsville/default.asp)

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