

HEP CAN'T WAIT

Fast Facts



ABOUT HEPATITIS

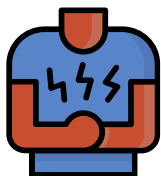
- Hepatitis is when your liver becomes inflamed or swollen.
- It is caused by viruses, alcohol, drugs, and other toxins.
- The 5 types of hepatitis viruses (viral hepatitis) are A, B, C, D and E.
- Vaccines can protect you against hepatitis A, B and D.
- Medicine for hepatitis C cures most people. Treatment is tablets daily for 8-12 weeks.
- Hepatitis viruses can be found through a blood test.

Hepatitis B and C are the most common types of hepatitis

HEPATITIS SYMPTOMS

Many people don't feel sick. Those that do, may experience:

- Tiredness
- Fever
- General aches and pains
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Discomfort around the liver/abdomen
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)



HEPATITIS TESTING

A blood test is needed to check for hep B or C. A doctor (GP) or health clinic can provide a referral for a test.

Hepatitis C can also be tested using a fingerstick test. These are available at some sexual health clinics, alcohol and other drugs services (AODs) and needle and syringe programs (NSPs).



HEPATITIS

B

KEY STATS

- Affects 31,665 in Queensland, 200,385 in Australia, 296 million worldwide
- Over 75% are NOT being monitored or treated
- Without regular care, 1 in 4 people with hepatitis B will develop liver cirrhosis or liver cancer.

TRANSMISSION

Hep B is transmitted through blood or sexual fluids, such as:

- During birth, if the mother has hepatitis B
- Unprotected sexual contact
- Blood-to-blood contact. For example sharing injecting drug equipment, unsterile tattoos or piercings, unsterile dental or medical procedures.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- There is a vaccination available for hep B that provides lifelong protection for most people.
- People with chronic hep B can live a healthy life by having regular check-ups (6-12 months) to monitor the virus and their liver.
- Some people will need to take medication to reduce the amount of virus if it is damaging the liver.

HEPATITIS

C

KEY STATS

- Affects 22,394 in Queensland, 117,810 in Australia, 58 million worldwide
- 1 in 5 people with hepatitis C are undiagnosed
- 20-30% of people with chronic hep C will develop liver cirrhosis

TRANSMISSION

Hep C is transmitted through blood-to-blood contact, such as:

- Sharing injecting drug equipment
- Unsterile tattoos or piercings
- Unsterile dental or medical procedures
- Needle stick injuries

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

There is NO vaccination for hep C but there is an effective cure. Most people can be cured of hepatitis C by taking tablets daily for 8 to 12 weeks.

Hep C treatments:

- Have a 95% success rate
- Have little to no side effects
- Are low cost for people with Medicare