

HEPATITIS

Fast Facts



ABOUT HEPATITIS

Hepatitis is the inflammation or swelling in your liver. It can be 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. A simple medicine for hepatitis C cures most people.

Hepatitis B and C are the most common types of hepatitis in Qld

HEPATITIS SYMPTOMS

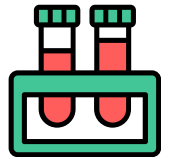
Many people with hepatitis B or C don't feel sick. Those that do, may feel:

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



HEPATITIS TESTING

A blood test is needed to check for hepatitis 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 205,521 people in Australia
- Around 1 in 4 people with hepatitis B are not diagnosed
- Over 75% of people with hepatitis B are NOT being monitored or treated



TRANSMISSION

It is spread through blood & sexual fluids, such as:

- To babies at birth, if the mother has hepatitis B
- Unprotected sexual contact
- Blood-to-blood contact, e.g. sharing injecting drug equipment, unsterile tattoos or piercings, unsterile dental or medical procedures



PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Vaccination for hepatitis B is available. It provides lifelong protection for most people
- People with chronic hepatitis B can live healthy lives by having regular check-ups (6-12 months) to monitor the virus and their liver
- Some people will need to take medicine if the virus is damaging their liver. Your doctor will help you decide if you need it



HEPATITIS C

KEY STATS

- Affects 74,400 people in Australia
- Around 1 in 5 people with hepatitis C are not diagnosed
- 20-30% of people with hepatitis C will develop liver cirrhosis

TRANSMISSION

It is spread 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 hepatitis C but there is a simple cure. Most people can be cured of hepatitis C by taking tablets daily for 8-12 weeks.

Hepatitis C treatments:

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