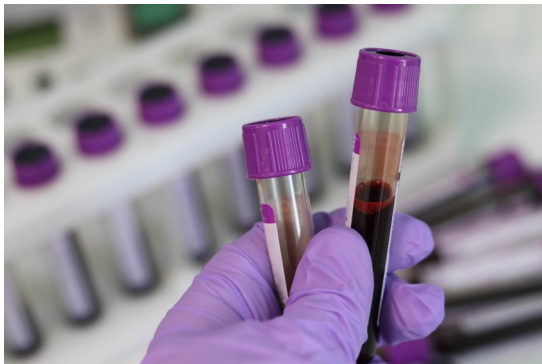


# SO YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH HEPATITIS C

## What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a **liver infection** caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). You get hepatitis C by contacting the **blood** of an infected person.

Approximately **2.5 million Americans** have hepatitis C, and **90%** of people with HCV can be cured.



## How It Spreads

- Exposure to infected blood or needles
- Injecting or inhaling drugs
- Unprotected sex
- Tattoos or piercings



## Symptoms

- Bleeding or bruising easily
- Fatigue
- Low appetite
- Yellowing of skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Itchy skin
- Dark-coloured urine
- Weight loss
- Fluid buildup in legs or abdomen
- Spiderlike blood vessels

## FAQs

**Q: Is there a cure?**

**A:** Yes. 90% of patients can cure hepatitis C with oral medication.

**Q: Do I need treatment?**

**A:** Most patients require treatment. Lack of treatment could cause long-term health problems like cancer.

**Q: How long does treatment last?**

**A:** Most people require 8 to 12 weeks of oral therapy.

# SO YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH HEPATITIS C

## How Treatment Works



**Step 1) Get a Diagnosis:** Think you have hepatitis C? If you spot symptoms, visit any clinic for a test.

**Step 2) Take One Pill Per Day:** Chronic hepatitis C is usually curable with oral drugs. Just take one pill daily for 8 to 12 weeks.

**Step 3) Cure Hepatitis C:** 90% of patients cure hepatitis C with oral medication.

## Treatment Can Save Your Life

Leaving hepatitis C untreated over several years can cause serious issues, including:

- Scarring of the liver (cirrhosis)
- Liver cancer
- Liver failure

Old hepatitis C treatments required weekly injections and drugs with harmful side effects. Modern treatment is safe and effective.



### Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hepatitis-c/symptoms-causes/syc-20354278>

<https://liverfoundation.org/for-patients/about-the-liver/diseases-of-the-liver/hepatitis-c/>