

Thursday, 03 August 2023

[Health Protection](#)



Hepatitis C – what now?

## Patient results factsheet

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus. Because you've tested positive for the virus, you will need to be referred to a specialist clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. You will receive an outpatient appointment so that further blood tests, an ultrasound scan and fibroscan can be carried out.

### Can I be cured?

It is possible for you to fight the infection and clear it from your body naturally. If your immune system is unable to fight off the virus, you can still be cured using medication in most cases. New treatments are now available that can cure more than 95% of people and the treatments are shorter with less side effects than the older therapies.

Without treatment, some people may go on to develop mild to moderate liver damage and, in some cases, this can progress to cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver over 20–40 years, which can lead to liver failure or cancer of the liver.

### How can I avoid passing on the virus?

You can prevent transmission to others by:

- not sharing needles or any other drug taking equipment;

- practising 'safe sex' by using condoms;
- not sharing personal toiletries such as a toothbrush, razor or nailbrush;
- only having tattoos or body piercing using sterile equipment;
- avoiding blood exposure by covering cuts with waterproof plasters until healed;
- not carrying a donor card, or donating blood, semen or blood products;
- cleaning any spilt blood on floors or work surfaces using household bleach.

If you have any worries about any possible risks, please discuss these with your nurse or doctor.

Factsheet for patients who have tested positive for the hepatitis C virus. Please note the translations are of an earlier version.

## Details

Format

4 page A5 factsheet

Target group

Hepatitis C positive patients

## Downloads

**Attachment**

**Size**

[Hepc\\_patient\\_results\\_factsheets\\_A5\\_05\\_23.pdf](#)

266.6 KB

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