Hepatitis C Testing

About hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus ("Hep C" or HCV). HCV is transmitted through contact with blood from an infected person. This blood contact can occur when sharing needles or injection equipment, during unprotected sex, through unsanitized tattoo or piercing equipment, through shared tools like razors or toothbrushes, through the umbilical cord during pregnancy, or during childbirth.

Hepatitis C can be a mild and/or short-term illness. However, more than 50% of people infected with HCV develop a long-term, chronic hepatitis infection, which can cause life-threatening health problems like cirrhosis and liver cancer. People with chronic hepatitis C often have no symptoms until they are in an advanced stage of liver disease.

Treatment: As with many viruses, not everyone infected with HCV needs treatment in order for their body to clear the virus. However, many individuals, especially in later stages of HCV infection, can benefit from treatment with antiviral medication. Medication, including sofosbuvir and daclatasvir, typically cures more than 95% of infections.

About hepatitis C testing

In New York State, health care providers are required to offer hepatitis C testing to **all patients age 18 or older** receiving primary care, and to patients under age 18 who are at increased risk of exposure.
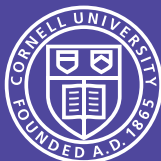
Hepatitis C testing may be especially appropriate for:

- Current or former users of injected drugs
- Pregnant people
- Sexual partners of anyone diagnosed with hepatitis C
- People with HIV infection
- Individuals who are initiating PrEP medication for HIV prevention
- People who have had multiple sexual partners or have had a sexually transmitted infection(s)

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- People assigned male at birth (AMAB) who have sex with other people AMAB

For a complete list of increased risk factors, visit *cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv.*

If you want to get tested

An HCV antibody blood test is used to determine if someone has the virus.

HCV testing is available to students at Cornell Health. The test is covered by most insurance plans, including Cornell's Student Health Plan (SHP). Check your plan for details.

To request testing, please speak with your healthcare provider during a medical visit or sexual health appointment, or call us to schedule an appointment for Hepatitis C testing: 607-255-5155.

More information about hepatitis C

For comprehensive information about hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment, visit *cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv*.

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