

## Treating Hepatitis C the new, simpler way

New treatments for Hepatitis C became available on the PBS on 1 March 2016.

The treatments provide many benefits including:

- a cure rate of 95%
- a short period of treatment (8, 12 or 24 weeks)
- easy to use – daily tablets and no injections
- fewer side effects.



## Don't delay, get a blood test today

Having blood tests is the only way to tell if you are infected with the hepatitis C virus. Blood tests can also show if there is any damage to the liver. The first test is for antibodies and the second test looks for the virus itself.

If you are found to have contracted hepatitis C, your GP can prescribe medicines in consultation with a medical specialist. Specialists can prescribe these medicines independently.

Visit your local GP to discuss if you should be tested and to organise blood tests.

## Find out more

Talk to your GP or visit [health.qld.gov.au/hepc](http://health.qld.gov.au/hepc)



We need to talk  
about Hepatitis C.

Don't delay, get a blood test today.

## Let's talk about Hepatitis C

Ever shared a needle or razor?

Had a backyard tattoo or home body piercing?

How about a blood transfusion prior to 1990?

Or maybe you've had a dental or medical procedure in the developing world?

You could have hepatitis C and not know it.

---

There are often no symptoms but, left untreated, it can cause cirrhosis, liver damage, cancer and even death.

---

You've now got a  
**95% chance**  
of being cured

It takes just a drop of blood to contract hepatitis C - but the good news is that thanks to the latest antiviral treatments available through your GP, there's a 95% chance of being cured.

## Contracting Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is contracted through blood-to-blood contact. The most common way to become infected is by sharing needles, syringes or other injecting equipment.

However, it can also be spread:

- through non-sterile tattooing or piercing equipment
- from a mother with hepatitis C to her newborn baby
- by sharing razors
- through physical activity where blood-to-blood contact occurs.

Infection rates are also higher in some migrant groups who contracted it before coming to Australia.

Cases of hepatitis C being contracted through blood transfusion prior to 1990 have also been reported.

As have cases of it being contracted through medical and dental procedures in the developing world.

You cannot contract hepatitis C from activities such as touching and kissing or sharing plates, clothes, toilets or showers with someone who has the virus.

## Who should be tested?

More than 300,000 Australians are thought to be infected with hepatitis C.



Testing is recommended for anyone who:

- has ever injected drugs, even if it was just once or many years ago
- has a backyard tattoo, home body piercing or scarification
- had a blood transfusion before 1990
- has had a medical or dental procedure in the developing world
- has been in prison
- has abnormal liver tests or liver disease
- born to a mother with hepatitis C
- engaged in physical activity that involved blood-to-blood contact
- has migrated from a region with high hepatitis C prevalence.

People aged between 40 and 60 should consider if they may have been exposed to hepatitis C and discuss being tested with their doctor, at least once in their lifetime.