

### **Hepatitis C**

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C spreads when blood from a person infected with HCV- even small amounts- enters the body of someone who is not infected. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, long-term illness<sup>1</sup>. You can have hepatitis C even if you don't look or feel sick. Getting tested is the only way to know if you have hepatitis C. Left untreated, long-term illness with hepatitis C can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis (liver scarring), liver cancer and even death.



### **Should I Be Tested for Hepatitis C?**

Getting tested is the only way to know if you have hepatitis C. Talk to your health care provider about getting tested for hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis C testing if you:

- Are 18 years of age and older, **at least once** in your lifetime.
- Are pregnant, and be tested during every pregnancy.
- Were born to a mother with hepatitis C.
- Currently inject drugs.
- Have ever injected drugs, even if it was just once or many years ago.
- Are living with Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Have abnormal liver tests or liver disease.
- Received donated blood or organs before July 1992.
- Received clotting factor concentrates before 1987.
- Are on hemodialysis.
- Have been exposed to blood from a person who has hepatitis C.



### **Hepatitis C is Curable!**

There is no vaccine for hepatitis C; however, most people can be cured of hepatitis C with timely treatment. The treatment involves taking pills by mouth every day for as little as eight to 12 weeks. These pills, called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs), have few side effects and cure rates greater than 95 percent. If you have been diagnosed with hepatitis C, ask your health care provider about treatment options.

## We Treat Hep C

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched the We Treat Hep C Initiative to make hepatitis C treatment virtually free for all Michigan Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries. Enrollees can be cured of their hepatitis C infection regardless of history of substance use or liver damage. In addition, hepatitis C treatment can be prescribed by any health care provider.



**If you have questions or are experiencing issues with obtaining hepatitis C testing and treatment, please e-mail [MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov).**

To apply for Medicaid benefits, visit:

[Michigan.gov/Medicaid](https://Michigan.gov/Medicaid)



## Resources for the Public

- [Hepatitis C Fact Sheet.](#)
  - [Spanish version.](#)
- [Understanding Hepatitis C Testing.](#)
- [MiBridges Health Insurance Coverage - Online Application.](#)
- [Help-4-Hep Peer Hepatitis C Support Line.](#)
- [Hepatitis C Doctor Discussion Guide.](#)
- [Mavyret® Copay Card.](#)
- [Mavyret® Nurse Ambassador Program.](#)

To find a syringe service program near you, please visit:

[Michigan.gov/SSP](https://Michigan.gov/SSP)

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Hepatitis C Basics. [Hepatitis C Basics | Hepatitis C | CDC](#)