

# HEPATITIS C

## The HEPATITIS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

- Our Hepatitis Center of Excellence offers state-of-the-art treatment for Hepatitis C.
  - We have physicians and pharmacists who specialize in Hepatitis care
  - We accept most insurance plans including Medicare and Medi-Cal
  - We offer care for uninsured, income-qualified patients at reduced costs
- Our team of experts at is ready to provide you with information, administer tests, and offer you treatment in an expedited and confidential manner..
- HIV and Hepatitis C testing is FREE.
- Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis testing is only \$25, which includes the test and initial treatment.

Take advantage of the  
free Hepatitis C  
testing that our Sexual  
Health Clinic offers on  
our DAP Campus



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Se Habla Español



**Symptoms  
Prevention  
Testing**

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## WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

- Hepatitis C is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation. It can lead to serious liver damage, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death.
- Hepatitis C infection is caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). The infection spreads when blood contaminated with the virus enters the bloodstream of an uninfected person.

## SYMPTOMS

- Many people who are infected do not look or feel sick, and they have no symptoms. In many cases, Hepatitis C is only diagnosed after the patient develops liver problems.
- Some people show mild to severe symptoms, including:
  - Fever or fatigue
  - Loss of appetite, nausea, and/or vomiting
  - Abdominal or joint pain
  - Dark urine or clay-colored bowel movements
  - Jaundice (yellow skin)

## TESTING

Visit The DOCK or talk to your doctor about being tested for Hepatitis C if any of the following are true:

- Born between 1945 through 1965
- Treated for a blood clotting problem before 1987
- A beneficiary of donated blood, blood products, and organs before July 1992
- Have abnormal liver tests or liver disease
- Born to a mother infected with Hepatitis C
- Received body piercing or tattoos performed with non-sterile instruments
- Work in health care or public safety and exposed to blood through a needle stick or sharp objects
- Had sexual contact with someone infected or potentially infected with Hepatitis C
- Current or past injection drug user (including if you injected once or many years ago)
- Received long-term hemodialysis treatment or dialysis for kidney failure
- Share personal care items such as razors or toothbrushes with an infected person
- Diagnosed with HIV

A screening test shows whether you have developed antibodies to the Hepatitis C virus. If the test is positive, a second test is needed to confirm if the virus is still present.

## PREVENTION

- There is no vaccine to protect you from the Hepatitis C virus.
- If you are sexually active, particularly with multiple partners, protect yourself by using latex condoms and water-based lubricants.
- An acute infection can clear on its own without treatment in about 25% of people. Further treatment can preempt a chronic infection.

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