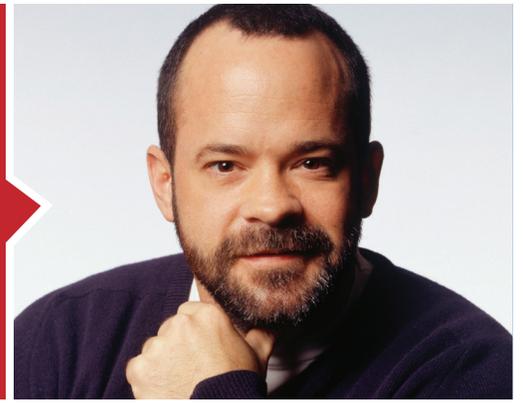


HEPATITIS C

TESTING INFORMATION FOR VETERANS



WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

- Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- HCV exposure can lead to chronic (lifelong) HCV infection that can progress to liver damage, including cirrhosis and liver cancer.
- There is no vaccine to prevent HCV infection.
- Having an HCV test is the only way to know if you have HCV infection.
- If you have HCV infection, you may not show symptoms for years, but can still pass the virus to others.

WHO SHOULD GET A HEPATITIS C TEST?

Talk with your health care provider about being tested for HCV infection if you:

- Were born between 1945 and 1965
- Are a current or former injection drug user or have ever shared needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject or snort drugs, even if it was many years ago
- Were treated for a blood clotting problem before 1987
- Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992
- Are on kidney dialysis treatment
- Are a Vietnam-era Veteran
- Have abnormal liver test results or liver disease

- Work in health care or public safety and were exposed to blood through a needlestick or injury with another sharp object on the job
- Are infected with HIV
- Had multiple sex partners
- Have current or past sex partner(s) with HCV infection
- Obtained tattoos or body-piercings in non-regulated settings
- Have a history of alcohol abuse or dependence
- Were born to a mother infected with HCV
- Were incarcerated

HOW CAN I BE TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?

- Your VA health care provider can order the HCV blood test for you.
- Results will be available in 1-2 weeks.

IS HEPATITIS C TREATMENT AVAILABLE AT VA?

- Yes, if you test positive for HCV infection, talk to your VA provider about treatment for HCV infection.

For more information: www.hepatitis.va.gov/patient

CONNECT WITH US:



SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES AT
WWW.PATIENTCARE.VA.GOV



FACEBOOK.COM/VETERANSHEALTH



TWITTER.COM/VETERANSHEALTH

#HEPAWARE WWW.HEPATITIS.VA.GOV