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 healthcare 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 in the VA?
Yes, if you test positive for HCV infection, talk to your VA provider about treatment for HCV infection.