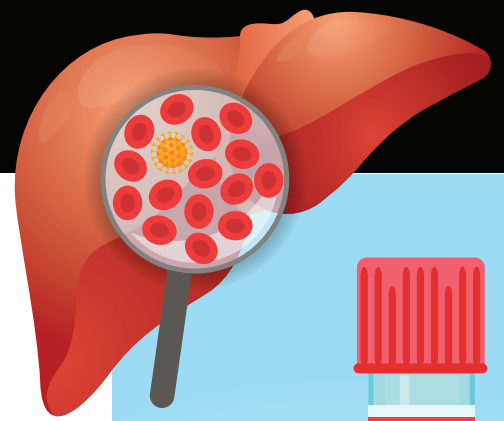


Hepatitis C Treatment



How is hepatitis C treated?

Hepatitis C or hep C is treated with medications, and there is good news. There are new treatments, and almost everyone who takes them is cured. Medications approved to treat hep C are called direct acting antivirals, or DAAs. All hep C treatments are taken by mouth, and sometimes only one pill, once a day.

Even if you were refused treatment in the past or had treatment that didn't work, now you can benefit from all the new treatments that are available.

What are DAAs?

DAAs are pills that combine more than one medication that work directly against the hep C virus to treat it. Your treatment will most likely last eight to twelve weeks, though some treatments go as long as twenty-four weeks. Different combinations of DAAs work best for different people. Some people take DAAs with another drug called ribavirin.

What does your health care provider need to know before starting your treatment?

A health care provider needs to know about your health history and current health. She or he will ask you questions, examine you, and perform tests to help decide which medications are best for you.

How will your health care provider pick the DAA combination for you?

You and your health care provider will work together to decide the best treatment for you. The specifics of your situation will guide the choice, such as:

- Your hep C genotype. Different strains of the virus are called "genotypes." Genotype 1 is the most common in the United States.
- Whether you were treated for hep C before.
- Whether you have liver damage. A simple blood test can determine if you have liver damage. A liver biopsy is no longer required.
- Other medications you are taking.
- The number of pills you are comfortable taking.
- Whether you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant.

Do DAAs have side effects?

Most people don't get side effects when they take DAAs. Some people have experienced tiredness, diarrhea, headache, trouble sleeping, and stomach upset. If you take DAAs and feel any side effects, tell your health care provider.

Will insurance cover the treatment?

Although it is expensive, there are resources to help you pay for your hep C treatment. Medicaid and most insurance companies cover it. Talk to your health care provider about accessing financial assistance.

How will you know if you are cured?

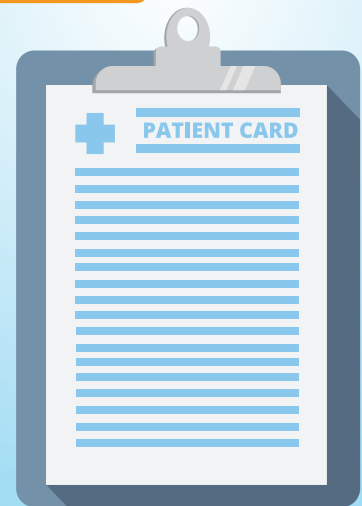
Your health care provider will perform a hep C RNA follow-up test 12 weeks (3 months) after you finish treatment. If the test does not detect hep C virus in your blood, you are cured of hep C infection. If there is still hep C virus in your blood, you are not cured. If you are not cured, then a different combination of DAAs might work for you.

Can you get hepatitis C again after you are cured?

Yes. Being treated for and cured of hep C infection does not protect you from getting it again. To protect yourself from being infected with hep C again, do not share needles, syringes or drug use equipment, personal items like toothbrushes or razors, and always use condoms during sex.

How can you find a hepatitis C provider?

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) AIDS Institute (AI) online directory is available via the link below. The directory provides ease of access and information regarding all participating hep C service providers across New York State. Please follow the link to find a provider near you: <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>



REMEMBER!

During and after your hep C treatment, be sure to stay healthy by eating right, exercising, getting plenty of rest, and limiting alcohol consumption.

Help NY eliminate



Get tested. Get treated. Get cured.

health.ny.gov/nycureshepc



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