

Hepatitis C (HCV) (Viral Hepatitis)

What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C virus. It is commonly referred to as “Hep C”, and is a bloodborne virus.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms can appear from 2-24 weeks after exposure, though the average is 4-12 weeks

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored stool
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Arthralgia
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes)

Some adults may be asymptomatic

A person is contagious from 1-2 weeks before symptoms appear and during the entire time the person is ill. All those who have been infected should be considered infectious.

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Transmission (How it spreads)

HCV is spread through exposure to infectious blood and bodily fluids

- Needle stick
- Injection drug use

- Receipt of donated blood, blood products and organs
- (rarely) through sexual contact

Get tested if you:

- Inject drugs
- Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992
- Have HIV
- Received long-term hemodialysis
- Have symptoms of liver disease
- Have known exposure or were born to an HCV positive mother

Diagnosis and Treatment

Blood test

Antiviral treatments are available.

Prevention:

- Avoid blood exposure
- Do not share toothbrushes or razors with an infected person

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474

For more information, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/>
<http://www.vaccintinformation.org>