



HepCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society
Dealing with Hep C issues since late 1990s

WEBSITE www.hepcbc.ca

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/hepcbc

TWITTER www.twitter.com/hepcbc

YOUTUBE www.youtube.com/user/hepcbc

CANADIAN CHARITY #86800-4979-RR0001

ANYONE CAN HAVE Hep C! RISK FACTORS include:

RECREATIONAL DRUG USE (NEEDLES, STRAWS, PIPES)

⇒ Even one-time use many decades ago is a risk factor.

TATTOOS, PIERCING, MANI-PEDI, WAX, ELECTROLYSIS

⇒ Shared body art equipment.

⇒ Insist upon autoclaved or brand-new tools, new wax, new templates, and individually-sealed ink packages.

BLOOD & BLOOD PRODUCTS RECEIVED (PRE-1992 in NORTH AMERICA, LATER IN SOME COUNTRIES)

⇒ Some patients were not informed of procedures.

RISKY OCCUPATIONS and SPORTS

⇒ Healthcare workers, war vets, athletes, cooks.

⇒ Wounds in which blood is shared can transmit.

⇒ Cuts, scrapes, and needle-stick injuries can transmit.

OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR HEPATITIS C INCLUDE:

⇒ Exposure to improperly sterilized dental tools or medical equipment such as in dialysis or colonoscopy.

⇒ Mass vaccination campaigns and traditional medical and cultural practices sometimes led to transmission.

⇒ Sharing razors, nail clippers, or toothbrushes.

⇒ 1 in 20 infants born to infected moms develop Hep C.

WHAT ABOUT SEXUAL TRANSMISSION?

HEP C IS SPREAD VIA BLOOD-TO-BLOOD CONTACT:

⇒ Sexual activity where blood may be present may include anal sex, sex during menstruation, rough sex that might lead to tearing, or the presence of sores from a sexually transmitted infection.

⇒ Hep C is very rarely spread between monogamous heterosexual partners.

CONTACT HepCBC for PRISON OUTREACH

Offices in Vancouver and Victoria - see website.

HEPATITIS C SERVICES FOR PRISONERS and PRISON-EXPERIENCED; EVERYTHING FREE:

Confidential Phone or Email Support, Information, and Advocacy from trained Hep C-experienced / Prison-experienced volunteers who know how to LISTEN.

TOLL-FREE LINE: +1-844-268-2118. Be ready to leave a message telling us how and when to connect with you. If you leave your mailing address we can mail you our basic hepatitis C info package. Tell us your information needs and we'll do our best. **We offer hepatitis B and HepC/HIV or HepC/HepB co-infection info and support as well.**

PRISON EMAIL HOTLINE: prisons@hepcbc.ca

WEBPAGE WITH NEWS FOR PRISONERS, ALLIES:

www.hepcbc.ca/support/prisons/

YOU CANNOT GET HCV BY

Hugging or Kissing, Sneezing or Coughing
Eating, Drinking, or Sharing food

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Hepatitis C

BREAKING

DOWN the BARS

between

PRISON HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH





HEPATITIS C IS A DEADLY DISEASE

Hepatitis C is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a virus that infects the liver. While it can take a long time to progress, eventually it leads to serious health problems. Approximately 335,000 people in Canada have hepatitis C.

Many older adults have lived with hepatitis C for 20 to 40 years. Now their Hep C-related complications such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, other cancers, transplant, kidney disease, hepatic encephalopathy, and liver-related deaths are expected to peak in the next decade. Hep C often does its damage 'silently' so people get diagnosed too late.

PRISONERS ARE A VERY HIGH-RISK GROUP

BAD NEWS: Deaths due to hepatitis C have exceeded deaths related to HIV/AIDS nationally since 2007.

GOOD NEWS: Hepatitis C damage to the liver and other organs and body systems can be prevented or reversed if caught in time. The earlier the treatment, the better!

GOOD NEWS: World Health Organization recommends that prison healthcare be aligned with a country's public health and primary care services for the general population.

SYMPTOMS

There are usually NO SYMPTOMS until liver damage reaches Advanced stages. POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS can include nausea, fatigue, confusion, irritability, inability to concentrate, weakness, poor appetite, yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, abdominal pain and swelling, edema, or blood in vomit or stool.



**YOU CAN
HAVE HEP C AND
NOT KNOW IT**

- * *Hep C can KILL.*
- * *NO VACCINE.*

SAVING LIVES & DOLLARS: HARM REDUCTION in PRISON

- * *reduces transmission both in prison and upon release;*
- * *reduces chances of reinfection following cure;*
- * *is sound public health practice; and*
- * *includes new needles & condoms.*
- * *Healthcare is a human right!*



HEPATITIS C IS NOW CURABLE

Most people with hepatitis C can now be cured in a matter of weeks with new highly-effective, all-oral treatments that, in most cases, have almost zero side effects. (No more INTERFERON! No more NEEDLES!)

Some provinces only cover treatment if the patient can prove advanced liver damage. HepCBC advocates against these restrictions both inside and outside prisons.

Once a person is cured of the hepatitis C virus, as long as they do not use alcohol or drugs, the liver damage stops. In most cases, liver damage and other Hep C-related damage to the body starts slowly reversing.

For more information go to [www:](http://www.catie.ca/en/hepatitis-c)

catie.ca/en/hepatitis-c pasan.org liver.ca
hepcbc.ca hepctip.ca hepatitiseducation.ca
positivelivingbc.org/services/prison-outreach (HIV, co-infection)