



Is Hepatitis C curable?

- Yes, hepatitis C is now curable with oral medication ranging from 8 to 12 weeks.

Who is recommended to start Hepatitis C Treatment?

- Treatment for hepatitis C should be offered to all people who have active infection.

How do I know if I have an Active Infection?

- People will need baseline blood tests to confirm active infection and assess their overall health.

Who is NOT recommended to start Hepatitis C Treatment?

- People who have naturally cleared the hepatitis C virus, **do not** need treatment.
- Hepatitis C treatment is **not** recommended for those who are pregnant.
 - ♦ If pregnancy occurs during treatment notify your hepatitis C provider.

What is done before starting Hepatitis C Treatment?

- Blood Tests
- People may require an ultrasound or a FibroScan to measure their liver health.
- Women may require a pregnancy test to confirm they are **not** pregnant before starting treatment.

How much will the medication cost?

- Treatment is fully covered with a valid health card in Saskatchewan.

Benefits to taking Hepatitis C Treatment?

- Early access to hepatitis C treatment can improve liver and overall health.
- People with cured hepatitis C infection lowers their chances of getting liver cancer.
- People with cured of hepatitis C can not spread the virus to others.
- Women with cured hepatitis C infection prior to pregnancy reduces mother-to-child transmission.
- After treatment some people feel much better (ie. have more energy and less body pain).

What is the proper way to take Hepatitis C Treatment?

- Your nurse, hepatitis C provider or pharmacist will review the following information about the medication:

Medication Topic	Medication Information
Dose	How many pills you take at one time, typically one to three pills
Frequency of medications	How often you take the dose, typically once a day for 8 or 12 weeks
Food	Medication is sometimes to be taken with food
Missed doses	Refer to the medication handout for instructions on missed doses
Side effects	Medications are generally well tolerated
Other medications	Any potential drug interactions will be discussed





What do I need to watch for if I am Diabetic and taking Hepatitis C Treatment?

- Check your blood sugar and monitoring symptoms for low blood sugar.
- Ask your diabetes team, dietitian, nurse, hepatitis C provider or pharmacist if you have questions about your diet or diabetic medication.

What can I do to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C to others, before and during treatment?

- Avoid sharing toothbrushes or razors.
- Avoid sharing tattoo ink or equipment.
- Avoid sharing or reusing drug equipment.
- Dispose needles and sharps in a puncture-proof container.
- Avoid donating blood.
- Cover any bleeding wounds to prevent others coming into contact with the blood.
- Clean household surfaces when there is visible blood with bleach and water. Gloves should be worn.
- Use a barrier (for example a condom) to reduce the spread during sexual activity, even if it is low risk.

Where can I discuss information about harm reduction, drug use and treatment programs?

- Ask your nurse about the local needle exchange program.
- Ask your nurse or hepatitis C provider about medication for opioid use disorder.
- Ask your nurse or hepatitis C provider for a referral to Addiction and Mental Health Services.

How can I protect myself from Hepatitis A and B, and other vaccine preventable infections?

- There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C infection.
- Ask your nurse about getting publicly funded vaccines to protect you from vaccine preventable infections.

How do I know if I am cured of Hepatitis C infection?

- To confirm cure, a viral load test is required 12 weeks after completing the treatment.
- If the virus is not cleared, you will be re-assessed and provided with options to be re-treated.

After I am cured, can I get the Hepatitis C infection again?

- Yes, you can be re-infected with the hepatitis C virus again if you are re-exposed.
- After being cured, people will still have hepatitis C antibodies, but it does not provide protection.
- If you think you have been re-exposed ask your nurse or hepatitis C provider for a hepatitis C viral load test.

Your Hepatitis C Team:	Positive Care Program: Address or Name:	Phone Number:
Access Place	#3 101 15th Street East, Prince Albert	306-765-6544
Nurse Clinician		
Hepatitis C Provider		
Pharmacy		

Source: [Curing Hepatitis C: What you need to know](#) | CATIE - Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information

