

Hepatitis C

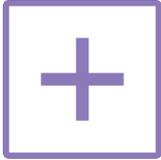


BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The virus spreads through blood-to-blood contact.

If untreated hepatitis C may lead to complications such as:

- Scarring of the liver (cirrhosis)
- Liver failure
- Liver cancer



Treatment for hepatitis C

- Oral medication (pills or tablets)
- Treatments lasts 8-12 weeks
- Few and minimal side effects
- Very effective



HEPATITIS C IN CANADA



1 in 4 people with hepatitis C in Canada are unaware that they are infected



Estimated number of Canadians infected with hepatitis C



Hepatitis C has been described as Canada's "most burdensome infectious illness" due to years of life lost



Canada is a global leader in vaccine research for hepatitis C

HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION IS A GLOBAL PRIORITY



Estimated number of people living with chronic hepatitis C infection globally.



Estimated number of people who died from hepatitis C-related complications in 2015



There is currently no effective vaccine for hepatitis C



The percentage of people cured of hepatitis C after completing treatment

HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION IS POSSIBLE

When combined, these tools can be used to **ELIMINATE** hepatitis C:



Evidence-based prevention



Simple diagnosis



Effective treatment



Global targets

