This resource guide was developed for Utah providers and people living with Hepatitis C and their caregivers.

This resource guide is updated regularly. Most recent version can be found at: https://sites.google.com/site/hepatitisinfoutah/

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Introduction

Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in Utah. Nation-wide, it is estimated that more than 1.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and at least 3.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis C. It is estimated that up to 75% of people infected with HCV do not know it.

This Hepatitis C Resource Directory was prepared by The Utah Department of Health to inform the general community and health and human services providers about available viral hepatitis services in our state.

The directory provides information about a range of services including:
- where to get vaccinated
- where testing is available
- which doctors or clinics provide medical care for people living with viral hepatitis
- how to locate support services for people living with viral hepatitis

Included in this guide is basic information about viral hepatitis and links to important resources throughout Utah.

The guide also includes a list of valuable internet websites with important information on many topics related to viral hepatitis.

Please forward updates, changes and questions about this guide to the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator: 801-538-6191 or hbush@utah.gov

As information and contact information changes regularly, confirm with each resource you contact.
How to use this guide

This guide is organized to help you find the services that you need. Go to the table of contents and find the pages of the guide that include information about the service you are seeking. Once you turn to that section, you will be able to identify all of the locations where that service is available.

This guide is also set up to help a person who is living with viral hepatitis navigate through a process to learn about their health status and understand available resources / services. It can also be used by health and human services providers as they work with people affected by viral hepatitis.

Step One: Locate a Provider

After you have tested positive for HCV antibodies (anti-HCV) the first thing you need to do is find an appropriate provider that can give you a confirmatory test. This test is what confirms whether you do or do not still have HCV.

Appropriate Providers may include the following:

- **Primary Care Physicians**— Most offer HCV testing and treatment. If you do not currently have a primary care physician you can find information about providers in your area in this book (see pages 34-35).
- **Community Health Centers**— If you do not currently have a primary care provider you can find information about health centers in your area in this book (pages 22-25)

American Liver Foundation—”Find a Provider” Tool: [http://hepc.liverfoundation.org/find-a-healthcare-provider/utah/#](http://hepc.liverfoundation.org/find-a-healthcare-provider/utah/#)

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How to use this guide, continued

Step One: Locate a Provider, continued

- **Primary Care Network**— Providing healthcare coverage for single adults ages 19-64 who qualify including primary care services and other medical services. More information is provided in this booklet (page 8). If eligible this booklet has information about providers that accept individuals who get coverage through Primary Care Network (PCN) (page 30).

- **Medicaid**— A program that provides health care for people who have low income and cannot afford it. You must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States to apply. More information about Medicaid is listed in this booklet (page 13). In this booklet you can also find information about providers that accept Medicaid (page 32).

- **Veterans Services**— Locations and contact information is provided in this booklet (page 33).

- **Clinical Trials**— Some individuals seeking treatment may be eligible to take part in clinical trials of various treatments (For a list of organizations performing clinical trials see page 28).

- **Providers in Neighboring States**— For information about providers in Colorado, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming see pages 39-40.

If those options do not work for you, contact:

**Project ECHO**— A program that will link you to providers who provide HCV treatment in Utah and some neighboring states.

For more information please call: **1-855-297-4528**
Step Two: Get a Confirmatory Test
A positive HCV antibody test means that at some point you have had the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). You need to get a confirmatory viral load test to see if you still have HCV. This test measures HCV RNA, or genetic material in the blood. If you have “cleared” or “resolved” the virus, this test will come back “undetectable.” If the test comes back “detectable,” then you are living with chronic (long-term) hepatitis C.

- Your Local Health Department—If you do not have a provider or cannot locate an appropriate provider you can schedule an appointment at your local health department to get a confirmatory test. For local health department information see pages 20-21.

Step Three: Find Support
One of the most important things you can do is to find support. It can be frightening to be diagnosed with hepatitis C but remember that you are not alone. Talk with people you care about and ask for support. Different services are available to you.

- Mental Health Services—Programs can include counseling and peer support groups. For a list of professionals that are experienced with hepatitis C, see page 41
- Substance Abuse Services—This can include treatment, counseling, and other services. For a list of providers that are experienced with Hepatitis C see page 41
- Patient Assistance Programs—Programs that provide some financial assistance for medication, depending on eligibility. For a list of these programs see page 26
- Primary Care Network—Providing healthcare coverage for single adults ages 19-64 who qualify including primary care services and other medical services (see page 30). If eligible see page 31 for providers that accept individuals who are get coverage through Primary Care Network (PCN)

Step Four: Prevention
Obtaining treatment for HCV is very important but there are other things you can do to reduce your risk of further infection and prevent any further damage to your liver. It is also important to keep the virus from spreading to others.

To Help Your Liver:
- Reduce your alcohol intake as much as possible (alcohol harms the liver)
- Eat a healthy, low-fat, low salt diet
- Drink a lot of water
- Get enough rest and moderate exercise
- Get Immunized/Vaccinated and tested for HAV and HBV (the virus that causes hepatitis B)—More information can be found on page 14
- See your Primary Care Physician for regular check-ups and visits to stay healthy and monitor your liver

How to use this guide, continued
- Medicaid—A program that provides health care for people who have low income and cannot afford it. You must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States to apply. For more information see page 32. In this booklet you can also find information about providers that accept Medicaid.
- Veterans Services—Locations and contact information is provided in this booklet (page 33).
Preventing transmission to others

It is possible for people with HCV to live healthy, active lives. You can take steps to keep yourself and those around you healthy. There is no vaccine to prevent HCV. The only way to stop the spread of HCV is to avoid direct contact with infected blood.

- Do not share needles or other injection equipment
- Use recommended safety measures if you are exposed to blood or needle sticks
- Practice safe sex
- Use clean needles, ink and other equipment for tattoos or body piercings
- Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or other personal items with others
- Wear gloves if you have to touch someone’s blood
- HCV is not spread by sharing eating utensils, hugging, kissing, holding hands, coughing, or sneezing.
- HCV is also not spread through food or water.

Can I transmit hepatitis C sexually?

Yes, it is possible to transmit HCV sexually. HCV is transmitted when someone’s blood comes into direct contact with an HCV-infected blood. The risk of transmission from sexual contact is believed to be low. However, having multiple sex partners, a sexually transmitted disease, HIV, or engaging in rough sex can increase the risk of transmission. You can prevent transmitting HCV sexually by practicing safe sex.

Can I transmit hepatitis C to my baby?

Yes, it is possible to transmit HCV to your baby during childbirth. The risk of transmission is believed to be low. About 4 of every 100 infants born to mothers with HCV become infected with HCV. Mothers who have HCV and HIV are at greater risk of transmitting HCV to their babies. HCV is not transmitted by breastfeeding. However, women who have cracked or bleeding nipples are advised to temporarily stop breastfeeding until the nipple is healed and is no longer bleeding.

Hepatitis C Information—FAQs

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It primarily affects the liver and over time can damage the liver and health of an individual. Usually it takes a long time to do any damage. Sometimes the damage is so minimal that people will go through their entire lives without knowing they have HCV.

How does a person get hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through multiple ways:

- Sharing needles and other equipment (cotton, water, surface, etc) to inject drugs
- From body piercing or tattoos that were done in prisons, at home or in other unlicensed or informal facilities.
- In rare cases, Hepatitis C may be sexually transmitted.
- Babies born to mothers with Hepatitis C can get the infection during childbirth.
- Although uncommon, outbreaks of Hepatitis C have occurred from blood contamination in health care settings.
- Before widespread screening of the blood supply began in 1992, Hepatitis C was spread through blood transfusions and organ transplants and people who took blood products prior to 1987.

HCV is not spread by kissing, hugging, sneezing, coughing, sharing food, eating utensils or glasses.

Is hepatitis C rare?

No. Approximately 3 to 4 million people in the United States have HCV. Worldwide, more than 170 million people have HCV. And it is estimated that up to 75% with hepatitis C don’t know it.

What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?

Some people have little or no symptoms. This could be because they hardly have any liver damage. Unfortunately, it also could be because the liver is a “non-complaining” organ. This means that there could be a lot of liver damage and hardly any symptoms. The most common symptom of HCV is fatigue. Body aches, flu-like symptoms, depression, and abdominal discomfort are also symptoms of HCV.
What are the long term effects of hepatitis C?
Most people will die with HCV and not of HCV.
- About 80-85 people out of 100 who are infected with HCV will develop chronic infection: The other 15-20 people who are infected with Hep C will clear the virus on their own. This is because the immune system of some people is able to fight off the virus naturally.
- About 10 to 20 people who develop chronic infection will have serious disease progression over decades: Only about 10 to 20 out of the original 100 people exposed to Hep C will develop serious life-threatening illness from Hep C.
- Hep C usually takes up to 10, 20, 30 or 40 years or longer to make the liver become really damaged.
- About 2-3 people who develop chronic hepatitis C infection will develop liver cancer: Only 2-3 people develop liver cancer out of the original 100 people exposed to Hep C, which only happens after the liver develops lots of scarring called cirrhosis.

Is there treatment for hepatitis C?
There are treatments that may get rid of or cure HCV, so talk with your doctor or nurse about whether treatment is right for you. How well it works depends on the genotype of HCV you have, how long you have been infected, how much your liver is damaged, and other factors. Also, HCV treatment is very expensive and can have many side effects. There are two or three medications used to treat hepatitis c: pegylated interferon, ribavirin and an HCV inhibitor. Treatment usually lasts 12 to 48 weeks. Talk to your doctor and people who have tried the treatment to help make your decision.

Remember……
- Many people have hepatitis C so you are not alone.
- It takes many years for hepatitis C to cause damage to the liver and to make someone sick.
- There are many things that people can do to help fight hepatitis C, and the best time to start is early – before hepatitis C has a chance to damage your liver.
- One of the most important things you can do is to stop or cut down on drinking alcohol.
- There are also medicines to get rid of hepatitis C that work in about 8 out of 10 people treated.
- Talk with your doctor about how often you should be monitored, and about the medications that can cure hepatitis C, and if they can help you.

Overview of Viral Hepatitis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of hepatitis</th>
<th>Hepatitis A</th>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What body fluids can transmit the virus?</td>
<td>Fecal to oral</td>
<td>Blood, semen, vaginal fluids to blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What activities can pass the virus?</td>
<td>Eating food prepared by an infected person who did not wash properly after going to the bathroom Eating uncooked shellfish Any contact between the mouth and an infected person's feces or anus</td>
<td>Unprotected sexual intercourse Sharing equipment used to inject drugs Mother to baby, usually during birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How it can be prevented?</td>
<td>Vaccination Early childhood vaccination was started in 1991. People over the age of 18 who are at risk should be vaccinated</td>
<td>Vaccination Early childhood vaccination was started in 1991. People over the age of 18 who are at risk should be vaccinated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens if someone becomes infected?</td>
<td>Hepatitis A is a short term illness that clears on its own within 6 months</td>
<td>About 85% of people who become infected with hepatitis B are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life. About 15% develop lifelong infection and approximately 15-40% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10-25 years. Treatment is available to help slow the disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Hepatitis C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood to blood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharing equipment used to inject drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprotected sexual intercourse, but this is less common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother to baby, usually during birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other blood to blood contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving blood and blood products before 1992</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avoid sharing injection drug equipment; use a new, clean syringe every time you inject

Use condoms consistently and correctly every time you have sex

All pregnant mother’s should be tested

About 15-20% of people who become infected with hepatitis C are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life.

About 80-85% develop lifelong infection and approximately 5-20% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10-25 years.

Treatment is available with success rates improving with new medications that become available all of the time. Some treatments even can completely clear the virus in some patients.

### Hepatitis A & B Vaccines

If you have hepatitis C, it is highly recommended that you get vaccines against hepatitis A (HAV) and B (HBV).

When people with hepatitis C are co-infected with hepatitis A and B, the outcome of the infection can be very severe.

A combination HAV/HBV vaccine is also available for people who are interested, and may be available through a special federal initiative grant for little or no cost to persons with risk conditions who are uninsured.

Utah hepatitis A&B vaccination information and availability:  
http://www.immunize-utah.org/

More information on vaccines and getting immunized:  
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/  
http://www.vaccines.gov/  
www.cdc.gov/travel

### Who should be vaccinated?

#### Hepatitis A

Routine vaccination is recommended for:

- All children between 12 through 23 months of age (Hepatitis A vaccine is not licensed for children younger than 1 year of age)
- Anyone 1 year of age and older traveling to or working in countries with high or intermediate prevalence of hepatitis A
- Children and adolescents 2 through 18 years of age who live in states or communities where routine vaccination has been implemented because of high disease incidence
- Men who have sex with men
- People who use illegal drugs
- People with chronic liver disease
- People who are treated with clotting factor concentrates

More information on vaccines and getting immunized:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/  
http://www.vaccines.gov/  
www.cdc.gov/travel
- People who work with HAV-infected primates or who work with HAV in research laboratories
- Members of households planning to adopt a child, or care for a newly arriving adopted child, from a country where hepatitis A is common

Hepatitis B
- Babies normally get 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- Anyone through 18 years of age who didn't get the vaccine when they were younger should also be vaccinated
- All unvaccinated adults at risk for hepatitis B infection should be vaccinated. This includes:
  - sex partners of people infected with hepatitis B
  - men who have sex with men
  - people who inject street drugs
  - people with more than one sex partner
  - people with chronic liver or kidney disease
  - people under 60 years of age with diabetes
  - people with jobs that expose them to human blood or other body fluids
  - household contacts of people infected with hepatitis B
  - residents and staff in institutions for the developmentally disabled
  - kidney dialysis patients
  - people who travel to countries where hepatitis B is common
  - people with HIV and/or HCV infection
  - Pregnant women
Testing for Hepatitis C

Why is it important to get tested for Hepatitis C?
- Millions of Americans have Hepatitis C, but most don’t know it.
- About 8 in 10 people who get infected with Hepatitis C develop a chronic, or lifelong infection.
- People with Hepatitis C often have no symptoms.
- Many people can live with an infection for decades without feeling sick.
- Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer and the leading cause of liver transplants.
- New treatments are available for Hepatitis C that can get rid of the virus.

Who should get tested for Hepatitis C?
- Anyone who has injected drugs, even just once or many years ago
- Anyone who has ever shared any injection equipment (needles, syringes, cooker, cotton, water, etc) for any reason
- Anyone who has ever received a tattoo or piercing with shared equipment (needles, ink, etc) or while incarcerated or in other non-professional settings
- Anyone who has/had a sexual partner who has injected drugs or shared injection equipment
- Anyone who has/had sexual partner who has HCV
- Anyone with chronic liver disease or has HIV/AIDS
- A man who has/had sex with other men

Other people who may want to get tested:
- A person who has shared personal care equipment (razors, toothbrushes) with, or had needle-stick from someone who has HCV
- Has/had anonymous sexual partners/multiple sexual partners/other high risk sexual activity
- Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992, or received clotting factor before 1987
- Patients with signs or symptoms of liver disease (e.g., abnormal liver enzyme tests)
- People born to a mother who has Hepatitis C

Getting tested for Hepatitis C

A blood test, called a Hepatitis C Antibody Test, is used to find out if someone has ever been infected with Hepatitis C.
- The Hepatitis C Antibody Test, sometimes called the Anti-HCV Test, looks for antibodies to the Hepatitis C virus. Antibodies are chemicals released into the bloodstream when someone gets infected.
- Test results can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks to come back. New rapid tests are now available in some settings and the results of these tests are available in 20 to 30 minutes.
- Most people who get infected with the Hepatitis C virus develop a chronic, or lifelong, infection. This is known as chronic Hepatitis C.
- However, some people are able to get rid of, or “clear,” the virus.

Non-Reactive or Negative Hepatitis C Antibody Test
- A non-reactive or negative antibody test means that you are not currently infected with the Hepatitis C virus.
- However, if you think you might have been exposed to Hepatitis C in the last 6 months, you will need to be tested again.

Reactive or Positive Hepatitis C Antibody Test
- A reactive or positive antibody test means you have been infected with the Hepatitis C virus at some point in time.
- Once people have been infected, they will always have antibodies in their blood. This is true if they have cleared the virus or still have the virus in their blood.
- A reactive antibody test does not necessarily mean that you currently have Hepatitis C and a follow-up test is needed.

Diagnosing Hepatitis C
- If the antibody test is reactive, you need an additional test to see if you currently have Hepatitis C. This test is called a RNA test. Another name used for this test is a PCR test.
- If the RNA or follow-up test is:
  - Negative - this means you were infected with Hepatitis C, but the virus has now been cleared from your body.
  - Positive - this means you currently have the virus in your blood.
- If you have a reactive antibody test and a positive follow-up test, you will need to talk to a doctor experienced in diagnosing and treating Hepatitis C.
**HCV Testing Providers**

Local Health Departments (pg. 20), Community Health Clinics (pg. 22) and other providers may also provide HCV antibody and confirmatory tests, call for fees, times and appointments.

### Utah AIDS Foundation
(801) 487-2323  [www.utahaids.org](http://www.utahaids.org)
1408 South 1100 East SLC 84106
Rapid HCV antibody testing (HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis testing)
Mondays and Thursdays: 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

### Salt Lake County Health Department
(385) 468-4242  [www.slcohealth.org](http://www.slcohealth.org)
STD Clinic, Rm 135  610 South 200 East SLC 84111
Rapid and conventional HCV antibody testing
Confirmatory HCV RNA testing
Appointments strongly recommended

### Utah County Health Department
(801) 851-7057  [www.utahcountyonline.org/](http://www.utahcountyonline.org/)
151 South University Ave, Provo 84601
Rapid and conventional HCV antibody testing
Confirmatory HCV RNA testing
Appointments strongly recommended

### Fourth Street Clinic - Wasatch Homeless Health Care
(801) 364-0058  [www.fourthstreetclinic.org](http://www.fourthstreetclinic.org)
404 South 400 West SLC 84101
Conventional antibody and confirmatory testing

### Centro Hispano
817 S. Freedom Blvd Provo 84601

### Moab Free Health Clinic
(435) 259-1113  [www.moabfreehealthclinic.org](http://www.moabfreehealthclinic.org)
350 South 400 East, Moab

### Tri-State HIV/AIDS Task Force
Doctor’s Free Clinic  southernutahhivtaskforce2012@gmail.com
(801) 707-6006
1036 Riverside Dr, St. George
2nd Saturday of each month

**Local Health Departments**

1-888-EPI-UTAH (1-888-374-8824)

Local Health Departments may offer rapid and conventional Hepatitis C antibody testing and/or confirmatory testing. Contact your nearest local health department to see what services they offer, to make an appointment, check fee schedules and other information.

### Bear River Health Department
655 East 1300 North
Logan, Utah 84341
Box Elder, Cache, Rich Counties
(435) 792-6500 (435) 716-8771 or 1-877-229-8825

### Central Utah Public Health Department
70 Westview Drive
Richfield, Utah 84701
Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne Counties
(435) 896-5451

### Davis County Health Department
22 South State Street
Clearfield, Utah
801-525-5200
[http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/health/default.cfm](http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/health/default.cfm)

### Salt Lake County Health Department
(385) 468-4242
STD Clinic, Rm 135  610 South 200 East SLC 84111

### Southeastern Utah District Health Department
28 South First East, P.O. Box 800
Price, Utah 84501
Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan Counties
(435) 637-3671 (435) 650-3550
Community Health Centers

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are non-profit private or public organizations that serve designated populations in rural and urban areas where barriers to health care exist.

Just like other health care organizations, CHCs rely on patient revenue to operate, but also receive federal, state, and private funding in order to offset the costs of serving uninsured, low-income, and homeless populations.

Anyone can receive care at a CHC regardless of income, ability to pay, or insurance status through a sliding-fee scale.
Community Health Center Locations

North Logan, Garden City, Hyrum, UT and Evanston, WY

Bear Lake Community Health Center, Inc.
(435) 946-3660
http://www.blchc.org/

Brigham City

Clinica de Buena Salud
(435) 723-8276
14 North 100 East #200, Brigham City, UT 84302
http://www.chc-ut.org/

Salt Lake City/County

Community Health Centers of Utah
http://www.chc-ut.org/

Central City Community Health Center
(801) 539-8634
461 South 400 East

Stephen D Ratcliff Community Health Center
(801) 328-5750
1365 West 1000 North

72nd Street Clinic
(801) 566-5494
220 West 7200 South, Suite A

Oquirrh View Community Health Center
(801) 964-6214
4745 South 3200 West

Midtown South Salt Lake
2253 S State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
http://www.midtownchc.org/

Community Health Centers, continued

Salt Lake City/County, continued

Salt Lake County
Utah Partners for Health
Mid-Valley Health Clinic
385-212-4802
8446 South Harrison Street, Midvale, UT 84047
http://www.upfh.org/

Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Inc.
Fourth Street Clinic
(801) 364-0058
404 South 400 West
http://www.fourthstreetclinic.org/

Ogden/Clearfield

Midtown Community Health Center
http://www.midtownchc.org/
Dr Richard Gregorie
(801) 393-5355
2240 Adams Avenue
Ogden, Utah 84401

Davis County Medical and Dental Clinics
801-393-5355
22 South State Street, Suite 1007
Clearfield, Utah 84015

Provo/Payson

Mountainlands Community Health Center
(801) 429-2000
589 South State St., Provo, UT
http://mountainlands.org/

East Carbon, Helper, UT

Carbon Medical Service Association, Inc.
(435) 888-4411
305 Center Street, East Carbon, UT 84520
http://www.carbonmedical.org/
Enterprise
  Enterprise Valley Medical Clinic
  (435) 878-2281
  223 South 200 East, Enterprise, UT 84725
  http://evmc.org/

Green River
  Green River Medical Center
  (435) 564-3434
  585 West Main Street, Green River, UT 84525
  http://grmedical.org/

Biknell/Hanksville
  Wayne Community Health Centers, Inc.
  (435) 425-3744
  128 South 300 West, Bicknell, UT 84715
  http://www.waynechc.org/

St. George/Cedar City Areas
  Family Health Care
  St. George Area (435) 986-2565
  Cedar City Area (435) 865-1387
  http://www.familyhc.org/

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
  http://www.utahpaiutes.org/
  Koosharem Community Health Center
  826 N 100 E Richfield, UT 84701
  Kanosh Community Health Center
  157 North Reservation Drive Kanosh, UT 84637

Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc.
  (435) 651-3291  www.unhsinc.org
  -Montezuma Creek Community Health Center
    PO Box 130, Hwy 262, Montezuma Creek, Utah 84534
  -Blanding Family Practice
    802 South 200 West, Suite B, Blanding, Utah 84511
  -Monument Valley Community Health Center
    PO Box 360-005, Monument Valley, Utah 84536
  -Navajo Mountain Community Health Clinic
    #2 Rainbow Drive, Navajo Mountain, Utah 86044

Patient Assistance Programs
(Medication Assistance)

Pharmaceutical companies have a long-standing tradition of providing prescription medicines free of charge to physicians whose patients might not otherwise have access to necessary medicines. Pharmaceutical companies operate these programs, commonly referred to as patient assistance programs, voluntarily.

Many drug manufacturers offer patient assistance programs, which can greatly decrease or entirely eliminate the costs of many medications.

Rx Connect Utah
1-888-477-2669
http://health.utah.gov/rxconnectutah/
RxConnectUtah links Utah citizens with resources to get the prescriptions you need. You must qualify for services.

RxAssist Directory of Patient Assistance Programs
www.rxassist.org  info@rxassist.org
RxAssist offers a comprehensive database of these patient assistance programs, as well as practical tools, news, and articles so that health care professionals and patients can find the information they need.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance
1-888-4PPA-NOW / 1-888-477-2669
www.pparx.org
The Partnership for Prescription Assistance brings together America’s pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that’s right for them. Many will get them free or nearly free.
Drug Company Resources

Please note that the requirements for program eligibility vary. Some programs may be applied for directly by the patient, whereas other program applications must be initiated by the healthcare provider (physician, pharmacist or agency).

- **AbbVie Patient Assistance Foundation**
  1-800-222-6885
  www.abbviepaf.org

- **Bristol-Myers Squibb Patient Assistance Foundation**
  1-800-736-0003
  www.bmspaf.org/

- **Gilead - Support Path**
  1(855)769-7284
  http://www.mysupportpath.com/

- **Genentech Patient Assistance Program**
  1-(888)202-9939
  www.genentech-access.com

- **Vertex Patient Assistance Program**
  1-855-837-8394
  www.vertexgps.com

- **Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals RibaCare®**
  1-866-650-RIBA
  www.3riverspharma.com/pat_riba.html

- **Kadmon Pharmaceuticals Assistance Program**
  1-888-668-3393
  www.pparx.org/

- **Jansen Prescription Assistance**
  www.janssenprescriptionassistance.com/

Clinical Trials

**University of Utah Medical Center**
Sade Gabler, Research Participant Advocate
801-581-3803
http://healthcare.utah.edu/clinicaltrials/

**Jean Brown Research**
801-261-2000
1255 East 3900 South #301, Salt Lake City, UT 84124
www.jeanbrownresearch.com

**PRA Health Services**
801-269-8200 1-888-927-9898
3838 S 700 E #202, Salt Lake City, UT 84106
www.crilifetree.com/clinicaltrials/hepatitis

**Clinical Research Centers of America**
801-410-1400
Email: info@liver-crca.com
www.liver-crca.com

**Hepatitis C Treatment Options**

Our research center is focused on helping people with liver disease, and we currently have several studies for the treatment of Hepatitis C.

**For more information, call 801-410-1400**

Worried you may have Hepatitis C but don't know what to do next? Call us, we can help.
Health Insurance Marketplace

The Health Insurance Marketplace helps uninsured people find health coverage.

Questions?
Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)

To be eligible for health coverage through the Marketplace, you:
- must live in the United States
- must be a U.S. citizen or national (or be lawfully present)
- can't be currently incarcerated

You're considered covered if you have:
- Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP,
- Any job-based plan, any plan you bought yourself,
- COBRA, retiree coverage, TRICARE
- VA health coverage,

Fill out the Marketplace application to find out if you qualify for:
- Private health insurance. Plans cover essential health benefits, pre-existing conditions, and preventive care.
- Lower costs based on your household size and income. You can preview plans available in your area, with prices based on your income and household size, right now.
- Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These programs cover millions of families with limited income. If it looks like you qualify, we'll share information with your state agency and they'll contact you. Many but not all states are expanding Medicaid in 2014 to cover more people.

Health Access Project

(801) 412-3980
http://healthaccessproject.org/

Under the umbrella of Community Health Centers, Inc., Health Access Project has been selected to assist individuals and families enroll into the insurance marketplace via the Affordable Care Act. Our trained Certified Application Counselors (CAC) are ready to help you and your family understand your new options for affordable health care coverage today. For an appointment, please call 801-955-2388 or 801-412-3980. All Certified Application Counselors are federally approved and trained by the Department of Health and Human Services. Enrollment assistance services are free of charge.

Note: Once someone has PCN they will not qualify for The Health Access Project. The Health Access Project should be contacted first. The Health Access Project will register PCN for primary care and specialty care.

Primary Care Network

Primary Care Network
Toll Free: 1-888-222-2542
PO Box 144102  Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4102
pcn@utah.gov
http://health.utah.gov/pcn

The Primary Care Network (PCN) is a health plan offered by the Utah Department of Health. It covers services administered by a primary care provider. Applications are only accepted during open enrollment periods, which are held when resources are available to cover more people. Primary care services available through PCN include primary care provider visits, some emergency room visits, emergency medical transportation, lab services, x-rays, up to four prescriptions per month, dental exams, dental x-rays, cleanings, and fillings, one eye exam per year, and family planning methods.
Those who qualify will gain access to preventive health insurance coverage:

- Age 19 through 64
- U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Uninsured; not covered by any health insurance
- Not qualified for Medicaid
- Not have access to student health insurance, Medicare or Veterans’ Benefits

Providers Offering HCV Services That Accept PCN

John Lowe, MD
Utah Digestive Health Institute (801) 479-9400
6028 South Ridgeline Drive
South Ogden, UT 84405

Nate McBride, PA-C
Utah Digestive Health Institute (801) 475-5400
6028 South Ridgeline Drive, Suite 201
South Ogden, UT 84405

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 Foothill Drive (801) 582-1565 Ext. 495
Salt Lake City, UT 84148

Christopher C. Tietze, MD
University of Utah Clinics (801) 581-3761
50 North Medical Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84132

Health Access Team - Ogden
2240 Adams Ave (801) 393-5355
Ogden, UT 84404 Fax: (801) 394-4609
www.healthaccessteam.org/intro.php

The Health Access Team works with the underserved community of Ogden to improve their health status through education and equitable access to health care resources.

Medicaid Information & Providers

Medicaid is a program for people who have low income and cannot afford health care. You must be a citizen or a legal resident of the United States and your qualification is determined depending on your disability, income and resources.

Applying for medical benefits:

http://www.health.utah.gov/bep/
https://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/medicaid/index.html

DWS Assistance:

For new and open medical, food stamps, financial and childcare cases, call:
Salt Lake Area: 801-526-0950
Outside Salt Lake Area:
866-435-7414
Call Center Hours of Operation: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Providers Offering HCV Services that accept Medicaid

J. David Bane, MD
Granger Medical Clinic (801) 965-3501
3725 West 4100 South
West Valley City, UT 84120

Lynn Q. Beard, MD
Medical Arts Center (435) 723-5246
984 South 500 West
Brigham City, UT 84302

Kenneth Buchi, MD and Eric E. Heaton, PAC
(801) 233-8233
3584 West 900 South, Suite 300
West Jordan, UT 84088

Central Utah Clinic
(801) 374-1268
1055 North 500 West, Provo, UT 84604

Northern Utah Gastroenterology
Bryan Larsen, MD (435) 787-0270
Dirk R. Davis, MD (435) 787-0276
630 East 1400 North, Suite 100 A
Logan, UT 84341

Utah Digestive Health Institute
(801) 475-5400
6028 South Ridgeline Drive
South Ogden, UT 84405
Medical Care for Hepatitis C

Why do I need to go to a doctor?
Your doctor will evaluate your overall health and monitor you to determine if, and when you may need treatment. There are several different tests your doctor may order:

- Liver function tests, also called a liver panel, to tell how well your liver is working. One of the most common tests is called ALT, the ALT levels are often, but not always, higher in people with hepatitis.
- An ultrasound exam to create a visual image of your liver.
- A liver biopsy, which is removal of a tiny bit of your liver, to allow your doctor to look directly at the health of the liver.
- A genotype test which determines the type of Hepatitis C virus you have.
- A viral load test which determines how much virus you have in your body.

Questions to ask your healthcare provider
Having a list of questions to ask a healthcare provider during an appointment can be a helpful tool to remember the important questions to ask.

- Do I have acute or chronic hepatitis C?
- What is my current virus level? What does that mean?
- What is my genotype? What does my genotype mean?
- Do I have liver damage? If so, how much is there?
- Do you recommend treatment? What treatment do you recommend? What do I need to know about my treatment?
- Do I need to start treatment for hepatitis C now?
- How will this treatment interact with my other medications?
- How will you assess whether the treatment is working for me?
- What should I do if I have side effects? How can I manage the side effects?
- What are symptoms to pay attention to and look out for?
- Do I need to be vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B?
- How likely is it that I will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer?
- If I do not start treatment now, how often should my liver be monitored for liver damage?
- What medications or other substances should I avoid?
- Does my family need to be tested for hepatitis C? Should they be vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B?
- How often should I see a liver specialist? Gastroenterologist?
Medical Providers Managing and Treating HCV

Finding a new doctor or other medical professional can take a little effort. Doing some homework up front may make your first appointment go more smoothly:

- Ask if the provider is accepting new patients and if they treat HCV.
- What is the typical wait time for an appointment?
- Is your insurance accepted? If so, be certain you understand any co-pays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs.
- Does the office bill your insurance or will you need to pay the fee directly and manage the insurance reimbursement yourself?
- What are the fees? Does the provider charge for time spent talking to you on the phone?

The providers listed below have experience in treating HCV. If you need more assistance finding a provider that works for you, or if you want to see if your current provider can treat HCV, please call: Project ECHO– 1-855-297-4528

SALT LAKE CITY/COUNTY AREA

University of Utah Gastroenterology Division
(801)1-585-0000  Toll free: 866-550-1333
Email: livercenter@hsc.utah.edu
30 North 1900 East 4R118 Salt Lake City, Utah 84132
http://healthcare.utah.edu/gi/

University of Utah Clinics
Christopher C. Tietze, MD
(801) 581-3761
50 North Medical Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84132
Specializes in VA and Prison patients

University of Utah Liver Clinic
Terry Box
(801) 581-2634
50 North Medical Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84132

University of Utah Clinic 1A-
Division of Infectious Diseases
Harry Rosado, MD
(801) 585-2031
50 North Medical Drive, SLC
(Services are available only for those with HCV/HIV co-infection who receive services in Clinic 1A)
Other Language(s) Spoken:
Spanish

Old Mill Clinic
Deborah Cobb, MSN, FNP-BC
(801) 944-3144
6360 South 3000 East, Suite 310

Bryner Clinic
John Hunt, MD
(801) 519-7193
525 East 100 South, Suite 500
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients, Medicaid

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 Foothill Drive, SLC
(801) 582-1565 ext. 495

Madsen Health Center
Mark Price
555 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
(801) 581-7790

Sugarhouse Health Center
Bernadette Kiraly
(801) 213-8845
1138 Wilmington Ave, SLC

Maliheh Free Clinic
415 E. 3900 S., SLC
(801) 266-3700
Accepts uninsured and low-income patients

Midtown Community Health Ctr.
Carissa Monroy MD
Richard Gregorie MD
2253 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
801-486-0911

University Health Care
Redwood Clinic
Tom Jones PA
(801) 213-9900
1525 West 2100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients, Medicaid

Granger Medical Center
Deb Plasman PA
(801) 965-3736
3725 West 4100 South
West Valley City, UT 84120

Mid-Valley Health Center
Amy Banks, MD
8446 S. Harrison
Midvale, UT 84047
(801) 417-0131

Kenneth Buchi, MD
Eric E. Heaton, PAC
(801) 233-8233
3584 West 900 South, Suite 300
West Jordan, UT 84088
Accepts Uninsured and Low-income Patients, Medicaid

St. Mark's Family Practice
Issac Noyes MD
(801) 265-2000
3900 S 1250 E Suite 260, Salt Lake City, Utah 84124
NORTHERN MOUNTAIN AREA

People’s Health Clinic - Park City
John Hanrahan MD
435-333-1859
650 Round Valley Dr.
Park City, UT 84060

Coalville Family Practice
Wain Allen MD
(435) 336-4403
82 North 50 East
Coalville, UT - 84017

Heber Valley Internal Medicine
Wayne Graham MD
(435) 657-4400
1473 S Highway 40
Heber City, UT 84032

DAVIS COUNTY AREA

Midtown Community Health Clinic – Davis County
Carrisa Monroy MD
801-393-5355
22 South State Street, Suite 1007
Clearfield, UT 84015
www.midtownchc.org

Joseph Jensen, MD
(801) 292-7250
425 Medical Drive, Suite 116
Bountiful, UT 84010
Hepatitis C Testing Available
Other Language Spoken: Italian

OGDEN AREA

Utah Digestive Health Institute
John Lowe, MD
(801) 479-9400
Nate McBride, PA-C
(801) 475-5400
6028 South Ridgeline Drive
South Ogden, UT 84405
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients
Accepts Medicaid
Accepts Primary Care Network
Other Language(s) Spoken: Spanish

McKay Dee Hospital Internal Medicine Clinic
Clyde J. Faucett, MD
(801) 387-7950
4403 Harrison Blvd, Ste 3875
Ogden, UT 84403
Hepatitis C Testing Available
Hepatitis A & B Vaccinations
Hepatitis C Treatment

McKay Dee Family Medicine/Porter Clinic
Ann Hutchinson MD
Scott Larsen MD
(801) 387-5300
4401 Harrison Blvd, Suite A-700
Ogden, UT 84404

Midtown Community Health Clinic - Ogden
Dr. Richard Gregorie MD
(801) 393-5355
2240 Adams Avenue
Ogden, UT 84401
www.midtownchc.org

LOGAN AREA

Northern UT Gastroenterology
Dirk R. Davis, MD
Bryan Larsen, MD
(435) 787-0276
630 East 1400 North
Logan, UT 84341
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients
Accepts Medicaid
Hepatitis C testing available
Hepatitis C Treatment
Other Language Spoken: Spanish

PROVO/OREM AREA

Central Utah Clinic
1055 N. 500 W., Provo
(801) 374-1268
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients
Accepts Medicaid
Hepatitis C Testing Available, Treatment

Utah State Hospital
1300 East Center St.,Provo
(801) 344-4631

MERRILL GAPPMAYER FAMILY MEDICINE
475 W. 940 N., Provo
(801) 357-7930

EASTERN UTAH

Moab Family Practice
Nicole Priest MD
38 W. 300 S.
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 259-7121

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN

Gunnison Family Practice
Adam Jensen DO
(435) 528-2130
95 East Center
Gunnison, UT 84643

Southwest Community Health Center- St. George
David Grygla MD
(435) 986-2565
25 N 100 E Suite 101
St. George, UT 84770

Mountain West Gastroenterology
(435) 673-1149
368 East Riverside Drive, Ste A
St. George, UT 84790
www.mwgi.com
Accepts Uninsured or Low-income Patients
Accepts Medicaid
Hepatitis C Testing Available, Treatment
Providers in Neighboring States

The providers listed below work with the telehealth program at the University of Utah, Project ECHO. There are many more providers available in these states. Call for eligibility.

**COLORADO**

Marrilac Community Health Center
Tonya Wren MD
John Cain PA
(970) 244-2800
Grand Junction, CO

Mountain Family Health Clinic
Ken Davis PA
195 W 14th S
Rifle, CO 81650
(970)945-2840

**CALIFORNIA**

Fairchild Medical Clinic
Judy Broeckel MD
475 Bruce Street
Yreka, CA 96097
530.842.3507

Sutter Pacific Health
Maurice Thomas NP
2367 Harrison Ave
Eureka, CA 95503
707-455-9015

Hi Desert Family Health Clinic-Yucca Valley
Hector Alverez
53375 29 Palms HWY, Ste B
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 501-0212

**IDAHO**

Family Health Services
St. Luke's Health System
Anastasia Milliron NP
114 Pioneer St
Jerome, ID 83338
(208) 324-3471

Shoshone Bannock Tribal Health
Chantell McAteer PA
PO Box 306 Mission Rd
Forthall, ID 83203
(208) 238-2400

Digestive Health Services
Ted Rae MD MD
1411 Falls Ave Suite 1151
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 933-4277

**NEVADA**

Billings Clinic
Karen Stainton NP
2675 Central Ave
Billings, MT 59102
406-238-2501

Billings Infectious Disease
Camilla Saberhagen MD
801 N 29th
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 255-8400

Kalispell Regional Healthcare
Jeffrey A. Tjaden, M.D., M.P.H.
1297 Bains Way Suite 4
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-5364

**OREGON**

Siskiyou Community Health
Nima Azarbehi DO
1701 N.W. Hawthorne Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541)471-3455

Umpqua Community Hth Ctr
Chris Gessell NP
150 Kenneth ford Dr
Roseburg, OR
(541) 672-9596

**NEVADA**

Wilson Medical Clinic
Mike Menolascino, MD
5325 HHR Ranch Rd
Wilson, WY 83104
307-733 2855

Cheyenne Health & Wellness
Dr. Hagemeyer MD
2508 E. Fox Farm Rd 1-1a
Cheyenne, WY 82007
(307) 635-3618

Northwest WY Family Planning
Sonja Hein MD
PO Box 941
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 527-5174

University of WY Fam. Practice
Dr. Hagemeyer MD
821 E 18th Street
(307) 632-2434
Cheyenne, WY 82007

St. John’s Internal Medicine
Dennis Butcher MD
555 E. Broadway Suite 201
Jackson, WY 83001
(307)733-7222

Teton Internal Medicine
Ellen Meyers MD
555 E Broadway Suite 201
Jackson, WY 83001
(307)733-2222

Castle Rock Hospital District
Nicole Summers DO
1400 Uinta Drive
Green River, WY 82935
(307) 872-4595

**WYOMING**

Sweetwater Memorial
Elina Chernyak, MD
Addiction Medicine Clinic
1180 Collage Dr Suite 2-5
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-352-8131

www.sweetwatermemorial.com/
Living With Hepatitis C

What is chronic Hepatitis C?
Chronic Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that results from a long-term infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Chronic Hepatitis C can lead to serious health problems including liver damage, liver failure, or liver cancer. Over time, approximately 60%-70% of people with chronic Hepatitis C develop liver disease and 1%-5% of people get liver cancer or cirrhosis.

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis C?
Most people with chronic Hepatitis C do not have any symptoms. Whether or not you show symptoms depends on many factors, such as how long you have had the virus and any other health conditions you have. Symptoms of chronic Hepatitis C can take up to 30 years to develop. When symptoms do appear, they can be a sign of serious liver problems. If and when you experience symptoms, they can include: fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey-colored bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice.

What if I don’t feel sick?
People with Hepatitis C often do not feel sick for many years. As a result, people could be living with Hepatitis C and appear healthy while liver damage silently occurs. Whether or not you have symptoms, the virus can be spread to others.

How is chronic Hepatitis C treated?
Medications, called antivirals, can be used to treat many people with chronic Hepatitis C. However, not everyone needs or can benefit from treatment. It is important to be checked by a doctor experienced in treating chronic Hepatitis C. He or she can determine the most appropriate medical care. Decisions about starting antiviral treatment are based on many factors, such as the type of virus, the condition of the liver, and other health conditions. Whether or not to be treated or when to start treatment should be discussed with your doctor.

What is treatment like?
Current treatment typically involves taking combinations of different antiviral medications for 3 to 12 months. These medications help your body to fight the Hepatitis C virus. Treatment can cause side effects such as flu-like symptoms, depression, weight loss, rash, anemia, and...
insomnia. Sometimes side effects can disrupt a person’s life and day-to-day activities. Even though side effects are common, many can be managed with the help of your doctor. Some people may stop treatment because of side effects. Never change your dosage or stop taking medication without talking to your doctor. New medications are available that may increase the number of people who get rid of the virus and may reduce the length of treatment and have fewer side effects.

Can Hepatitis C be cured?
For many people with Hepatitis C, medical treatment can be successful and can result in the virus no longer being detected in the blood. This is referred to as a sustained viral response, or SVR.

What are the potential outcomes of treatment?
- Sustained virologic response (SVR) – Treatment for hepatitis C is considered successful when HCV cannot be detected in the body six months after the medication has been completed.
- Improved response, but no SVR – The amount of HCV in the body is significantly lower than before treatment, but HCV is detectable in the body.
- No response – The medications had minimal or no effect.
- Incomplete treatment – Treatment ended earlier than the prescribed duration.

After treatment, is a person protected from Hepatitis C?
No. A person who has been successfully treated and has an SVR is not protected for life from Hepatitis C. A person can get infected with Hepatitis C again if he or she is exposed to blood infected with the Hepatitis C virus.

Can people with chronic Hepatitis C continue to work and do everyday activities?
People with chronic HCV can continue to work and perform everyday activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendations state that people should not be excluded from work, school, play, child care, or other settings because they have HCV.

Living With Hepatitis C

TIPS FOR LIVING WELL WITH HCV:
- Rest when tired
- Take only the medications recommended by a healthcare professional
- See a liver doctor regularly (hepatologist or gastroenterologist)
- Attend all medical appointments
- Be screened for liver cancer regularly
- Avoid alcohol, tobacco and recreational drugs. If you cannot quit, identify resources to help you cut back or reduce harm. (Pg. 41)
- Aim for 7 to 9 hours of sleep every night.
- Keep current with regular medical screenings.
- Be immunized against hepatitis A and B. Make sure all vaccinations are up to date.
- Strive to be as physically active as you can be on a regular basis.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Eat a low fat, high fiber diet. Include fruit, vegetables, and whole grains. Avoid trans-fatty acids and saturated fats.
- Avoid dietary supplements that may harm the liver, such as iron or vitamin A, kava, and valerian; never take large doses of supplements; verify that what you are taking is compatible with everything else you are taking.
- Avoid or reduce stress.

SUBSTANCE USE
One of the first recommendations given to patients with HCV infection is to abstain from alcohol use. This is especially important for HCV patients undergoing antiviral therapy. Patients who drink during HCV treatment are less likely to clear the virus.

SUPPORT GROUPS
A good support group provides information, resources and support. Patients share their experiences, talk about their favorite doctors, discuss how they handle medication side effects, and provide tips on living with HCV. Most patients find it valuable to be with others who share the same experiences as they do, where they can be among others without having to explain themselves.

Hepatitis C Support Group
Location: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
261 South 900 East, SLC Upstairs Media Room
Days: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Shauna, 801-699-9779
Internet Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hepatitis Branch
http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/

Know More Hepatitis
www.cdc.gov/KnowMoreHepatitis

American Liver Foundation
www.liverfoundation.org

HBV Advocate-Tons of Hepatitis B information
www.hbvadvocate.org

HCV Advocate- Tons of Hepatitis C information
http://www.hcvadvocate.org/

Hepatitis Education Project
National Hepatitis Prison Coalition
www.hcvinprison.org

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program
www.hepcchallenge.org

Hepatitis C Connection
www.hepc-connection.org

Hepatitis C Global Foundation
www.hcvglobal.org

Hepatitis Foundation International
www.hepfi.org

HIV and Hepatitis
www.hivandhepatitis.com

National Institutes of Health

Veterans Affairs—Center for Excellence in HCV Research & Education
http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/

The Combo Survival Guide—Information about Treatment
http://www.hepcsurvivalguide.org/comboguide.htm

Glossary of Important Terms

Esophagus – The tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach.

Fibrous – Composed of or containing fibers.

Fulminant – Sudden onset, most severe.

Gastroenterologist – A doctor that specializes in the function and disorders of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, intestines, and liver.

Glucose – A sugar formed during digestion.

Glycogen – A substance found in the liver and muscles that is easily converted to glucose for energy.

Hemodialysis – The process of filtering the accumulated waste products from the blood of a person whose kidneys are not functioning properly, using a kidney machine.

Hepatitis – Inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by a variety of agents, including viral infections, bacterial invasion, and physical or chemical agents. Symptoms include: fever, jaundice, and an enlarged liver.

Hepatitis A – An acute infection and does not progress to chronic hepatitis or cirrhosis. Most patients recover completely within six to ten weeks. Hepatitis A is spread mainly via feces and contaminated food and water. A vaccine against the hepatitis A is available.

Hepatitis B – About 10% of cases progress to chronic infection. It is transmitted through sexual contact with an infected individual, injection drug use, and other exposure to infected body fluids. A vaccine against the hepatitis B is available.

Hepatitis C – A form of hepatitis that was previously known as non-A, non-B hepatitis and is caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). There is no vaccine against hepatitis C virus.

Hepatitis D – A person cannot be infected with HDV without current or simultaneous infection with hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis D infection is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in recipients of multiple blood transfusions, including patients with hemophilia or undergoing renal dialysis, and among those who share contaminated needles.

Hepatitis E – Caused by a waterborne virus (HEV). It is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in developing countries. Hepatitis E infection results in an acute infection much like hepatitis A. It does not cause chronic infection. It is spread by fecal contamination in water.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) – Liver cancer.

Hepatocytes – Liver cells.

Hepatologist – A doctor who specializes in the study and treatment of liver disease.

Immunoglobulin – One of a family of closely related though not identical proteins capable of acting as antibodies.
**Immunology** – The branch of medicine that focuses on the immune system, immunity, and allergy.

**Jaundice** – Yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

**Laparoscopic biopsy** – A medical procedure performed when a tube (laparoscope) is inserted through an incision in the abdomen and a piece of tissue is removed.

**Lipid** – Component of fat.

**Lipoproteins** – A complex of lipids and proteins that carries lipids around the body.

**Liver** – The largest glandular organ in the body. It has many functions that include, but are not limited to: the production of protein and cholesterol, the production of bile, the storage of sugar in the form of glycogen, and the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The liver also breaks down and excretes many medications.

**Malaise** – Discomfort, uneasiness often indicates infection.

**Pancreas** – A long, irregularly shaped gland lying behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and produces insulin.

**Pathologist** – A specialist in diagnosing the abnormal changes in tissues removed at operations and postmortem examinations.

**Perinatal** – Concerning the period beginning after the 28th week of pregnancy through 28 days following birth. Perinatal Transmission of an infectious disease from mother to infant. It can happen in the uterus, or during or after birth.

**Peripheral edema** – Fluid build up in the feet and ankles.

**Phospholipid** – A phosphorus-containing lipid found in cell membranes.

**Polymerase inhibitors** – A compound that stops an essential enzyme needed for viral replication.

**Portal hypertension** – High pressure in the liver, intestines, and spleen.

**Prophylaxis** – A type of treatment to prevent disease or stop it from spreading.

**Protease inhibitor** – A compound that breaks down proteins, inhibiting the replication of viruses such as HIV.

**Serologic testing** – Blood test.

**Transvenous biopsy** – A procedure during which a tube is inserted into a vein in the neck, then a needle is put into the catheter to remove tissue samples.

**Ultrasound** – A test that uses a wand, which is placed on the abdomen and moved back and forth to examine the shape, size, and appearance of the liver.

**Variceal bleeding** – Bleeding from blood vessels in the esophagus. This may occur in patients with cirrhosis.