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## New and effective Hepatitis C treatment is available

You can access it in prison.

Untreated Hepatitis C can lead to liver disease and death. Many people have Hepatitis C even though they never used injection drugs.

Newer treatments now available in Canada are much more effective than older Hepatitis C drugs. They are also easier to take because they are oral medication (no needles), have fewer side effects and are taken for a shorter time. Even people with cirrhosis and other liver problems may now be eligible for treatment.<sup>1</sup>

Most people have no symptoms, so you could have Hepatitis C and not know it. Hepatitis C rates are 260 times higher in prison than in the community.<sup>2</sup> If you are concerned that you might have Hepatitis C, ask the institutional doctor to be tested.

If you have Hepatitis C, you can ask the institutional doctor for treatment. With treatment, your liver may start to repair itself.<sup>3</sup>

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1 HepCBC, Hepatitis C Pamphlet for Prisoners (last updated September 2018). Online: <http://hepcbc.ca/prisons/>

2 CBC “Needle exchanges coming to 2 Canadian prisons” (14 May 2018). Online: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/needle-exchanges-coming-to-2-canadian-prisons-1.4662778>

3 CATIE, Understanding Cirrhosis of the Liver: First Step for the Newly Diagnosed (July 2015). Online: [https://www.catie.ca/sites/default/files/Catie\\_Cirrhosis\\_web\\_EN\\_July22-2015.pdf](https://www.catie.ca/sites/default/files/Catie_Cirrhosis_web_EN_July22-2015.pdf)

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For more information on Hepatitis C or support, you can contact HepCBC's confidential phone line at 1-844-268-2118 (option 1) or 604-210-2901.

For more information about your treatment options, you can contact CATIE: 1-800-263-1638 or 416-203-7122.

If you have trouble getting treatment for Hepatitis C, contact Prisoners' Legal Services at 1-866-577-5245.

**This publication contains general information only. Each situation is unique. Law and policy can also change. If you have a legal problem, contact Prisoners' Legal Services or a lawyer.**



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