

Hepatitis C

Treatment Options and Resources



Hepatitis C (HCV, Hep C) is a chronic liver disease. Currently, there are many options for management and treatment. This handout will review recommendations and treatment options and provide resources for people who want information about hepatitis C infection.

Protect your liver – get vaccinated!

While there is currently no vaccination for hepatitis C, getting vaccinated for hepatitis A and B provides lifelong protection against hepatitis A, B, and D, which can cause additional complications and increased liver damage in people who have hepatitis C.

Vaccine for hepatitis A and B is widely available for adults and is covered by most types of insurance. Full protection can require up to three shots over a six-month period. Check with your healthcare provider or neighborhood pharmacy and stay updated on all your immunizations.

Drug and alcohol treatment programs:

Most providers will require that patients abstain from alcohol and be in recovery from street drug use for a minimum of six months before beginning treatment for hepatitis C. Below are some resources for people who are interested in drug and alcohol treatment programs in the Spokane area.

Spokane County Community Services

- 509.477.5722
- spokanecounty.org/2531/Substanc-Use-Treatment

Patient assistance programs:

The medications used to treat hepatitis C are expensive. Even if you have medical insurance, it may be difficult to come up with the money for the treatment co-pays. If you do not have insurance, it can be even more challenging. There are several patient assistance programs set up by the companies that make the drugs to treat hepatitis C.

Patient Advocate Foundation Co-Pay Relief

- 866.512.3861
- copays.org

NeedyMeds

- 800.503.6897
- needymeds.org

HealthWell Foundation

- 800.675.8416
- healthwellfoundation.org

Good Days

- 877.968.7233
- mygooddays.org

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

- 888.477.2669
- pparx.org

Patient Access Network Foundation

- 866.316.7263
- panfoundation.org/index.php/en/patients/assistance-programs

AbbVie

- 844.277.6233
- abbvie.com/patients.html

BMS

- 844.442.6663
- bms.com/patient-and-caregivers/get-help-paying-for-your-medicines.html

Gilead

- 855.769.7284
- mysupportpath.com

J&J (simeprevir/olysio)

- 800.652.6227
- jjpaf.org

Kadmon Pharmaceuticals

- 800.652.6227
- pparx.org/prescription_assistance_programs/kadmon_patient_assistance_program

Moderiba (Ribavirin)

- pharmacychecker.com/patient-assistance-programs/moderiba

Participation in a research study:

If you do not have medical insurance, another option would be to try to participate in a clinical trial. Many clinical trials will pay for the medications and for some or all the lab work that is needed. Information on clinical trials can be found at:

- Clinicaltrials.gov
- centerwatch.com/clinical-trials/volunteering.aspx
- hcvclinical.hcvadvocate.org

Project Access:

Project Access is a regional network of physicians and hospitals working to provide specialty-level healthcare access

for uninsured Spokane County residents living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Services are donated and include office visits, laboratory services, hospital care, interpretation services, and some low-cost medications. You can get additional information at 509.325.5010 ext. 221.

Local clinics that provide hepatitis C treatment:

Hepatitis C treatment can last up to 24 weeks and requires ongoing follow-up and monitoring of your viral load. In many cases, providers will refer you to a specialist for treatment. Specialists in gastroenterology, hepatology, or infectious diseases are well qualified to treat most patients with hepatitis C. Below is a list of provider offices in Spokane that treat many patients with hepatitis C and who accept a wide variety of insurance plans.

CHAS (Community Health Association of Spokane)

- 509.444.8200
- chas.org/services/medical/hepatitis-c-program

MultiCare

- 509.838.2531
- multicare.org/rockwood-clinic-services-digestive-health

Unify Community Health

- 509.326.4343
- yvwfc.com/locations/unify-community-health-mission-avenue

Spokane VA Medical Center

- 509.434.7000
- hepatitis.va.gov

Patients with advanced liver disease requiring a liver transplant are encouraged to consult with a gastroenterology provider who can assist with getting them on a transplant list at transplant centers in the Pacific Northwest.

Support groups and online communities:

There are few and mostly limited options for support groups that meet in person. For information on support groups in the Pacific Northwest:

Hepatitis Education Project (HEP) – Support Groups

- hepeducation.org/support-groups

Hepatitis AIDS Substance Abuse Project (HASAP)

- 509.323.2842

There are several online communities where people can interact with others who also have hepatitis C.

Healing Well

- healingwell.com

Patients Like Me

- patientslikeme.com/?format=html

Health E Treatment

- healthetreatment.com

Health Boards

- healthboards.com

For more information:

It is important to be proactive about your health. Hepatitis C is a chronic disease for most people who become infected and can be positively or negatively affected by lifestyle choices. Hepatitis C can also be managed effectively with treatment. For questions:

- Talk to your healthcare provider.
- Look online at hcvadvocate.org for information on treatment and living with HCV.
- Look online to the Hepatitis Education Project at hepeducation.org for information on their current programs and educational materials.
- Call Spokane Regional Health District at 509.324.1442 to talk with an epidemiologist.

For more information:

Spokane Regional Health District

Disease Prevention and Response

(509) 324.1442 | TDD (509) 324.1464