

# Getting tested for hepatitis C can save your life

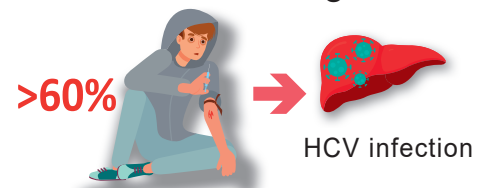
## Hepatitis C can cause liver cancer

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. People infected with HCV can develop chronic hepatitis, which may lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.



Hepatitis C can remain asymptomatic until decades after infection when signs and symptoms develop secondary to serious liver damage.

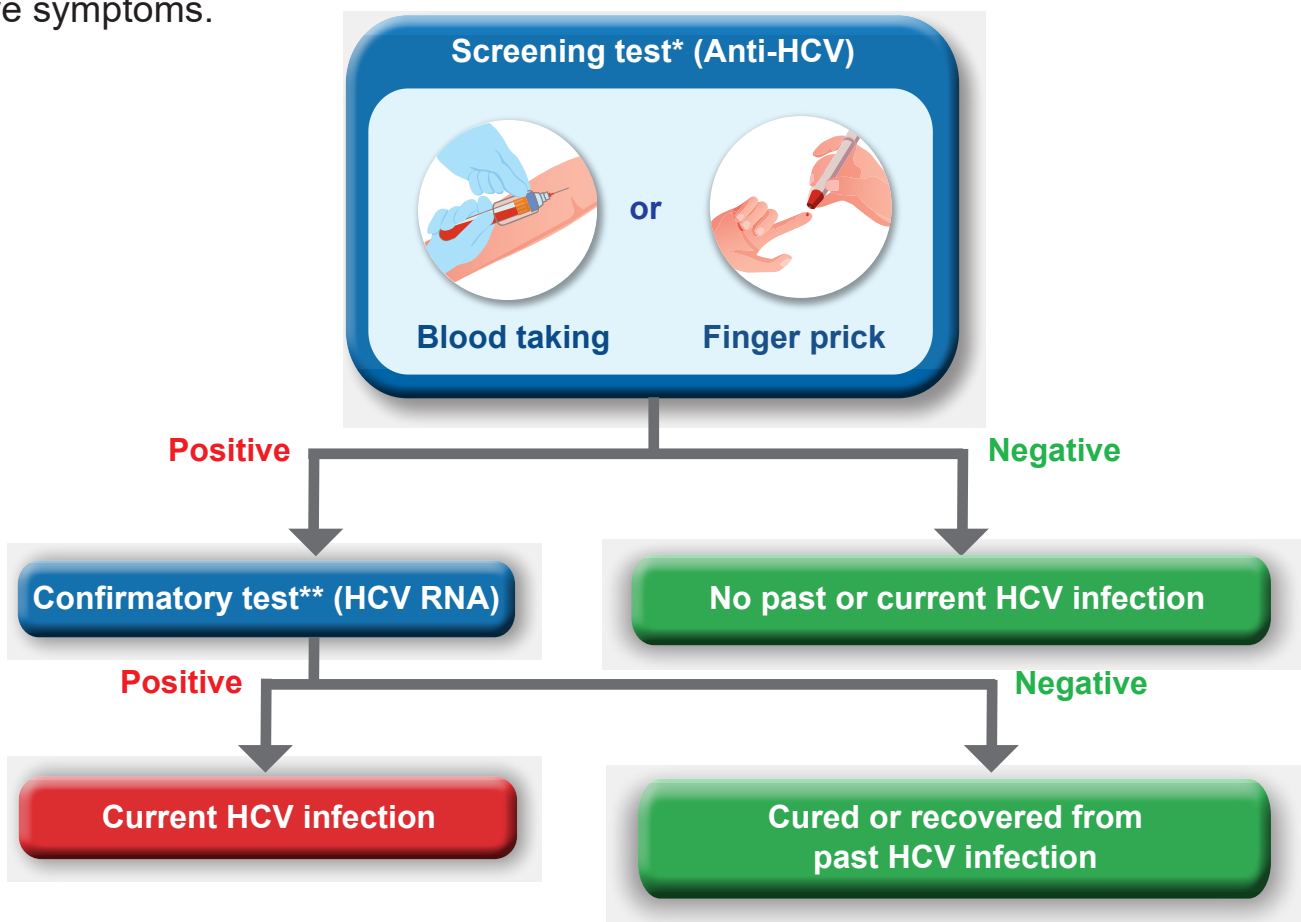
Hepatitis C can be easily transmitted through contact with blood. Sharing needles, syringes or other equipment for injecting drugs can spread the infection.



In Hong Kong, more than 60% of people who inject drugs (PWID) have past or current hepatitis C infection.

## Blood test is needed to diagnose hepatitis C

Testing for hepatitis C is recommended for current or former PWID, including those who injected drugs only once or a few times many years ago, no matter whether they have symptoms.



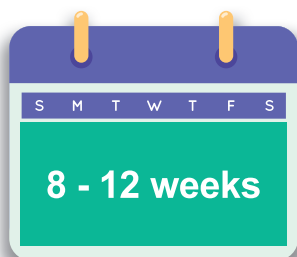
\* Screening test: Antibody test to determine whether a person has past exposure to HCV

\*\*Confirmatory test: RNA test to determine whether a person currently has HCV

## Oral medication can cure hepatitis C

Use of direct-acting antivirals (DAA) for around 8-12 weeks can cure HCV infection, thereby reducing the risk of progression to liver cancer and dying from liver diseases.

- 👍 Highly effective
- 👍 Minor side effects
- 👍 Oral administration (Do not require injection)



## Protecting yourself from HCV infection

As treatment does not confer protective immunity, recovered hepatitis C patients still have to observe the following:

### ⚠️ Stop injecting drug use

- ✦ Get into **methadone** treatment programme
- ✦ Blood attached to a used needle, even in amounts too small to see, can dissolve in water and contaminate the containers and other equipment, such as filters and spoons, and pose risk of HCV transmission



### ⚠️ Avoid sharing personal care items (e.g. razors and toothbrushes) that are potentially contaminated with blood

### ✅ Use condom when having sex



[www.hepatitis.gov.hk](http://www.hepatitis.gov.hk)



控制病毒性肝炎辦公室  
Viral Hepatitis Control Office



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