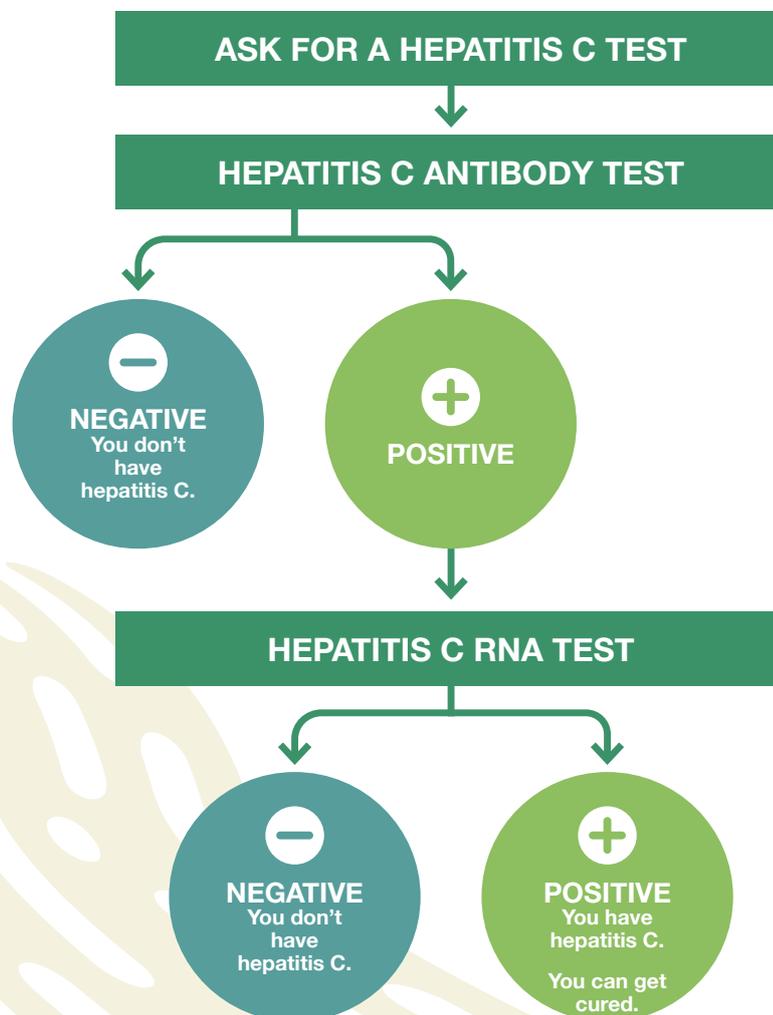


## Testing and treating hepatitis C: Information for patients.

**This guide tells you about the different tests your doctor can do to help you with hepatitis C.**

GPs can now safely manage and treat most patients with hepatitis C. Most people can get rid of their hepatitis C.



## If you test positive to the PCR viral detection test, you have hepatitis C.



95% of people with hepatitis C can get cured of hepatitis C with direct acting antivirals (or DAAs). They are simple to take and most people don't feel any bad side effects.

Your doctor will do some tests and ask you some questions to work out which medicine is best for you. They also need to check whether there is any damage to your liver.

### Other tests

1

#### Genotype test

There are 6 different genotypes (or strains) of the hepatitis C virus. Your doctor may need to work out which type you have to decide which medicine will help you the most.

2

#### Tests for cirrhosis (severe liver scarring)

There are various tests that your doctor can use to work out if there is any liver damage. The type of test used may depend on what you can get in the area you live:

- **Blood tests:** These check on your liver, and see if there is damage.
- **Fibroscan (transient elastography):** This is a quick test like an ultrasound that is pain-free. It measures the stiffness of your liver.

3

#### HCV RNA test (sometimes called a PCR test)

This blood test measures how much of the hepatitis C virus is in your blood. This test is usually only used to see if you have hepatitis C. You can also use it 12 weeks after treatment to make sure that it worked.

4

#### Tests for other viruses in your blood

If you have hepatitis C, it is possible that you have another blood-borne virus as well. Your doctor may suggest you get tests for HIV and hepatitis B.

## Questions your doctor may ask

Your doctor may ask you some other questions about your medical history. This is to make sure the medicine is safe for you. Some of these questions are below, to help you prepare.



### Are you taking any other medicines?

You should tell them about all medicines you are taking even if you don't think they are important. This includes supplements, herbal, traditional Chinese and over-the-counter medicines. All of these can mix with the hepatitis C medicines and some can harm your liver.



### How much alcohol do you drink?

Because hepatitis C affects your liver, alcohol can make any liver damage worse. You can talk to your doctor if you need help to lower the amount of alcohol you drink.



### Do you have any other medical conditions?

Tell your doctor if you have another illness. This means they can make sure it won't be affected by the hepatitis treatment. For some health issues, you may need to see a specialist doctor.



### Are you using any drugs?

It is important to tell your doctor if you use any illegal drugs. For example, steroids or cannabis. Everything you tell your doctor is private.



### MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information at [www.hepatitisaustralia.com](http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com)

#### References

[National Hepatitis C Testing Policy 2020](#), ASHM

This resource is provided for general information only and not intended to replace legal or medical advice. We encourage you to seek independent advice before making any decisions based on the information provided here.