

# What is Hepatitis C?



Chronic Hepatitis C is a virus that affects almost 350,000 people in Canada.

Hepatitis C is shared by blood to blood contact.

Hepatitis C is the leading cause of infectious diseases causing death.

Hepatitis C may lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

## Why don't I feel it?



Most people who have Hepatitis C don't know they have it.

This virus can hide in your liver for years without signs that it is affecting your health.



## Hepatitis C can happen to anyone

The virus can be spread by:

- Blood transfusions before 1990
- Contaminated dental instruments
- Contaminated Vaccination needle
- Injection or nasal drug use
- Non-sterile tattoo equipment
- Mother to baby during pregnancy
- Sharing items like toothbrushes or razors

# ECHO+

## Options expanding to include:

**Presentations** for community, health care team, and/or medical providers

## Current screening options:

- Fibroscan Liver Screening
- DBS (Dried Blood Spot Testing)  
*Syphilis, HIV*

## Screening Options we are working to bring to you in the future:

- UST (Urine Spot Testing)  
*Renal Disease, Gonorrhea*
- POCT (Point of Care Testing)  
*Hep C, HIV*



# Let's Cure Hepatitis C Together



Extension for Community Health Outcomes +



**Alberta Health Services**

Population, Public & Indigenous Health SCN™

**Inspiring solutions. Together.**

## There is a Cure!



New medications are available that cure this disease by taking a pill every day for 8-12 weeks.

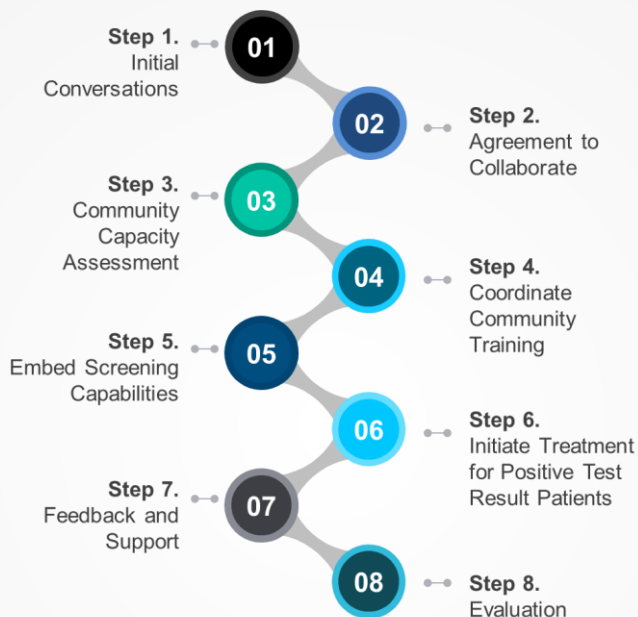
## How does Hepatitis C affect my community?



Rates of STIs are increasing across Alberta, including Hepatitis C. There can be barriers to accessing screening and treatment services.

Screening and treatment of Hepatitis C has rapidly changed in the last few years. It can be difficult to get up-to-date information on what health care providers and community members can do. Stigma, navigating the health system and limited access to see a liver specialist make it hard to get the correct information and treatment. Your community is impacted by people going untreated and unknowingly spreading the virus, which means your community members experience worse health outcomes.

## How can ECHO+ help?



## 8 Step Pathway of Support to Hepatitis Treatment and Cure

## What can ECHO+ offer my community?

- ECHO+ uses technology to connect your community to a Liver Health specialist.
- ECHO+ offers Hepatitis C treatment and specialist care without leaving your community.
- ECHO+ can share the latest information on screening and treatment options for Hepatitis C.
- Your community can co-design the ECHO+ implementation to meet your Liver Health needs.
- Opportunity to strengthen communications between your community, local healthcare providers and specialists.



*This project aligns with the Blueprint to Inform Hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada (2019) and the Government of Canada Five-Year Action Plan on STBBI (2019) to support the World Health Organization goal of elimination of HCV as a public health concern by 2030*