

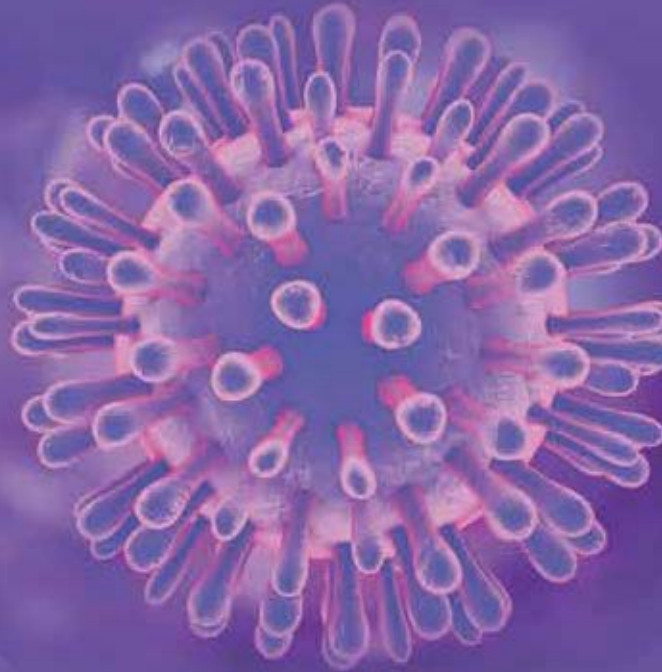


# **HIV and Hepatitis C Coinfection**

# A new era of treatment for people with HIV and Hepatitis C Coinfection:

## What is HIV/Hepatitis C Coinfection?

HIV and Hepatitis C coinfection means that you are living with both HIV and Hepatitis C. HIV affects your immune system and Hepatitis C (often called Hep C or HCV) is an infection that affects your liver. Hepatitis C has been one of the leading causes of illness for people with HIV – but now that is changing!



## If you have HIV/ Hepatitis C Coinfection you are not alone.

- About 30% of people living with HIV are coinfecting with Hepatitis C.
- The rate is even higher (50-90%) for people living with HIV who have a history of injection drug use and are coinfecting with Hepatitis C.

## Gay men living with HIV should know the facts.

Men who have sex with men who are living with HIV are at increased risk of getting Hepatitis C during sex. The risk is highest when blood is present during sex, for example during anal intercourse or rough sex. Using condoms, lots of lube and preventing bleeding during sex can help protect you from Hepatitis C.

## New treatments for Hepatitis C have changed everything.

### Old Treatments

- Not very effective
- Serious side effects
- Risks outweighed benefits for most people

### New Treatments

- 90 -100% cure rate
- Few or no side effects
- Almost everyone can benefit from treatment

If you were not eligible for the old treatments or if you had treatment and it didn't work, you will most likely be able to benefit from the new treatment!





## How do I find out if I have HIV/Hepatitis C coinfection?

- Screening for Hepatitis C is a regular part of health care for all people living with HIV.
- Screening for HIV is a regular part of health care for all people living with Hepatitis C.

Make sure your doctor has screened you for both HIV and Hepatitis C and know your results.

## Talk with your doctor about Hepatitis C treatment.

If you have HIV/Hepatitis C coinfection, ask your doctor about the new treatments. In some cases he or she may refer you to a Hepatitis C expert. If treatment cures your Hepatitis C, it will improve your overall health and it's one less thing to worry about.



## **Aren't the new treatments for Hepatitis C expensive?**

Yes. But there are resources to help pay for treatment. With prior approval, Medicaid and many insurance companies will cover the treatment. Talk to your health care provider about accessing financial assistance.

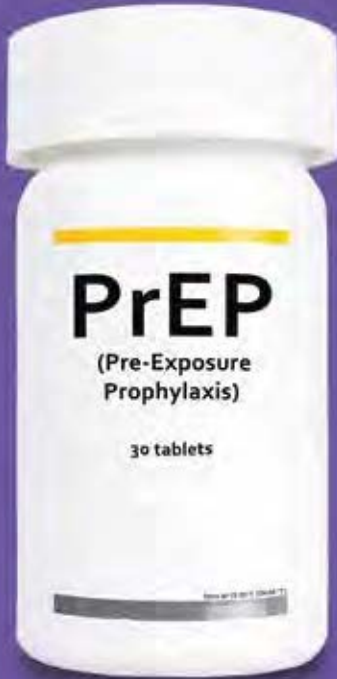


## Keeping your Liver Healthy.

- Avoid or reduce your alcohol consumption.
- Make sure you are vaccinated against hepatitis A and B.
- Eat healthy, exercise and get enough rest.
- See your health care provider for regular check- ups.
- Ask your doctor before taking any prescription, over-the-counter medications, supplements or vitamins.

## Avoid Reinfection.

New treatments can cure Hepatitis C but they don't protect you from getting re-infected. Avoid re-infection by not sharing injection equipment (needles, syringes, cotton, cookers) and always using a condom during sex.



## Thinking about PrEP?

PrEP does not protect you or your partner from Hepatitis C. Use condoms to avoid getting Hepatitis C and other Sexually Transmitted Infections.

## Resources

For more information, please call or visit:

AIDS Hotline: 1-800-541-AIDS (English)  
1-800-233-SIDA (Spanish)

HCV: [health.ny.gov/hepatitis](http://health.ny.gov/hepatitis)

HIV: [health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/index.htm](http://health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/index.htm)

PrEP: [health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/index.htm#prep](http://health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/index.htm#prep)

STDs: [health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/](http://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/)

Drug User Health: [health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/](http://health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/)

