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You can contact us to find out more about the scientific research and information we have used to produce this leaflet.

If you need extra copies of this leaflet, or would like to translate, adapt or reproduce it, please get in touch.

For more information on this topic

- Read our '**Hepatitis C treatment**' leaflet.
- Read our '**How hepatitis C is passed on**' leaflet.
- Read our '**How hepatitis C is passed on during sex**' leaflet.

Other titles in The basics series

- Taking drugs on time
- Health checks
- How treatment works

For information in other languages

www.aidsmap.com/languages

We recommend that you discuss the information in this leaflet with a doctor or other health worker.

For more information about HIV

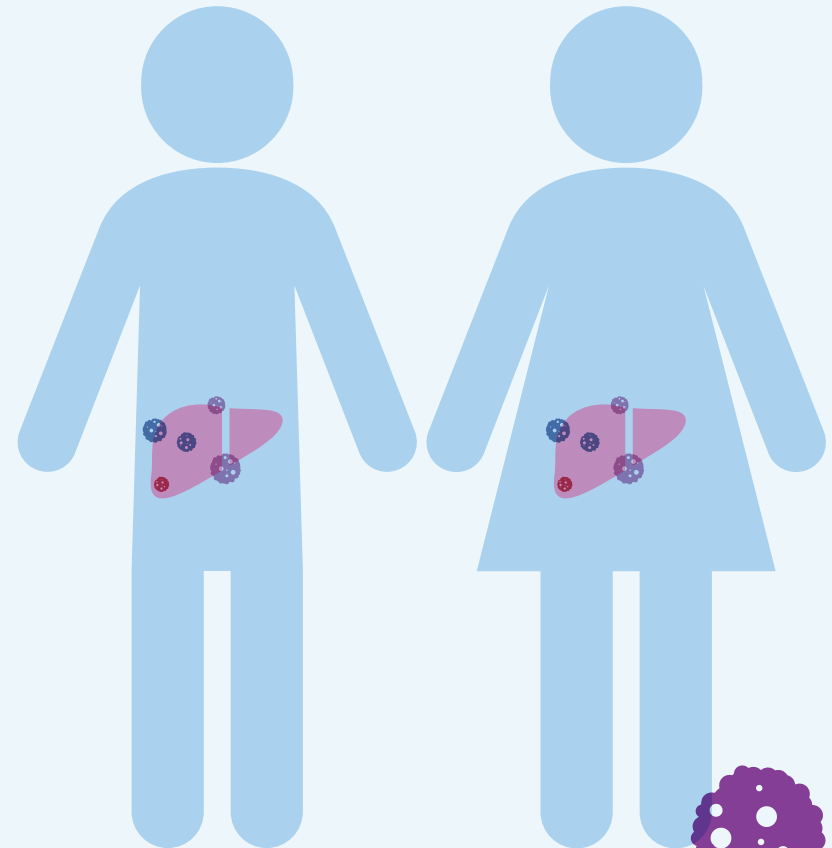
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- Speak to an adviser at
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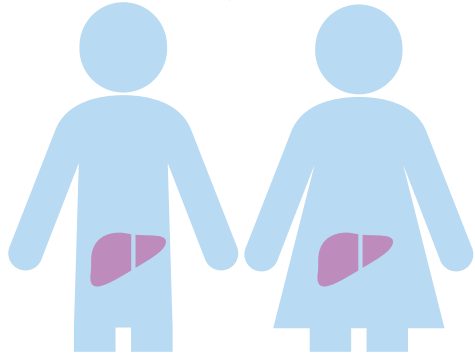
Thanks to all of the professionals and people with HIV who have helped us to develop this leaflet.

The basics Hepatitis C

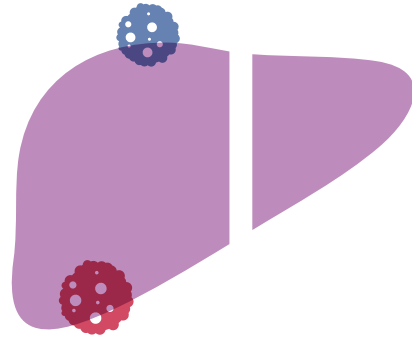


Print out double sided and fold along dotted line

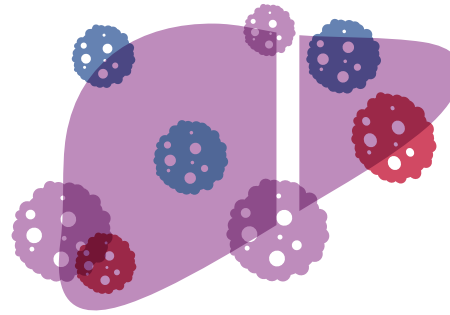
Hepatitis C is a serious infection caused by a virus. It damages the liver, which performs essential functions in the body.



A few people clear the virus on their own, without treatment. When this happens, it is usually in the first six months after getting the virus.



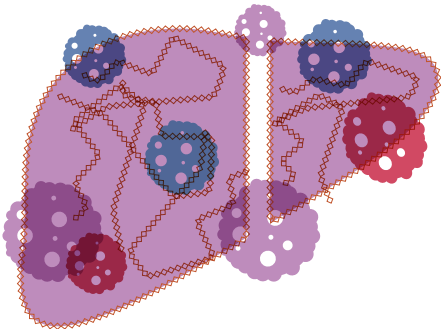
If you don't clear the virus, hepatitis C will slowly damage your liver. **You may not notice any symptoms.**



You can reduce damage to your liver by **avoiding alcohol and recreational drugs.**



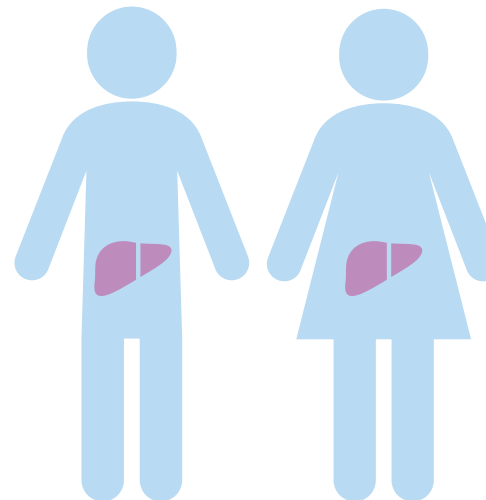
When your **liver is damaged** it becomes hard and scarred. This can make you feel unwell. Moderate scarring is called 'fibrosis'. More serious scarring is called 'cirrhosis'.



Modern hepatitis C treatment is simple to take and has few side effects.



More than 95% of people who take their treatment are cured of hepatitis C.



Important points

Hepatitis C is a serious infection which damages the liver.

Some people have hepatitis C for many years without feeling unwell or having any symptoms.

Successful treatment clears the hepatitis C virus from your body.