

#### Do you have Louisiana Medicaid/Medicare?

## The Cure for Hepatitis C is Free!



Hepatitis C is a virus transmitted through blood that causes inflammation and scarring in the liver and often leads to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis or liver cancer. The treatment to cure hepatitis C is fast and easy with a takehome medication that you take once daily for 12 weeks.

Treatment is free for Louisiana Medicaid and Medicare enrollees until June 30, 2025. Scan the QR code or visit <a href="mailto:bitly/ldh\_hepc">bitly/ldh\_hepc</a> to find a provider and get cured!

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Isn't there a waitlist for treatment?

There is no waitlist!

In the past, my doctor said I had to meet Medicaid treatment requirements (e.g., sobriety or late-stage liver fibrosis). Do I still have to wait?

Restrictions changed in 2019 and you no longer have to wait to start treatment.

## Do I need to be sober to start hepatitis C treatment?

No! If you are currently using drugs or alcohol, you can still be treated and cured.

#### How does the treatment work? How long does it take?

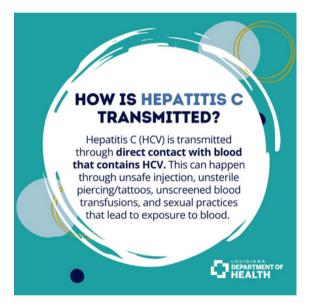
Hepatitis C treatment is usually 1 pill a day for 12 weeks, which cures over 90% of people. After completing the treatment, you'll do follow-up blood work to make sure that you have been cured.

### Will I experience side effects? I know someone who got treated years ago and it made them feel sick.

Hepatitis C is treated with new medications called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) and most people have mild or no side effects.

#### I don't notice any symptoms from hepatitis C. Should I still get treated?

Yes! Many people who have hepatitis C do not have symptoms. Early treatment may prevent liver disease, liver cancer or cirrhosis. Get treatment as soon as you can.





#### Louisiana Department of Health

Harm Reduction Response

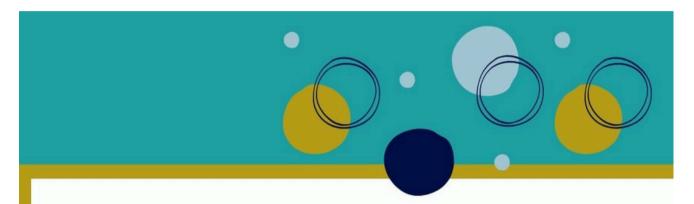


#### Can I get hepatitis C again?

You can still get hepatitis C after being cured, but you can be treated again. In Louisiana there is no limit to how many times you can access treatment and have it covered by Medicaid.

#### How can I prevent giving hepatitis C to other people?

Hepatitis C is most commonly transmitted by sharing syringes and other injection equipment such as cotton filters and cookers. It can be transmitted through blood-to-blood contact and through sex. Safer injection and safer sex practices can lower the risk of giving hepatitis C to someone else.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

on linkage to testing, Syringe Service Programs, safer injection supplies, condoms and treatment centers near you.



Louisiana Health Hub: louisianahealthhub.org

Syringe Service Program: bit.ly/ldh ssp

