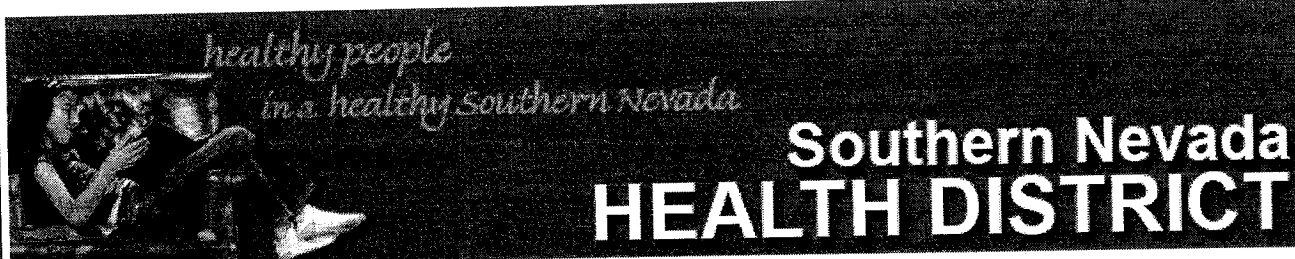


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## Health Topics

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## Hepatitis C

**What is hepatitis C?**

Hepatitis C is a disease caused by the hepatitis C virus that results in infection of the liver. Hepatitis C is the most common (but not the only) cause of post-blood transfusion hepatitis in the United States.

**Who gets hepatitis C?**

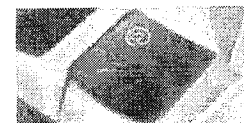
Anyone can get hepatitis C, but the following people are at high risk of getting the infection:

- IV drug users
- people who received blood transfusions or organ transplants prior to 1992
- dialysis patients
- infants born to infected mothers

There is a lower risk for health care and public safety workers, those who have sex with multiple partners and those having sex with an infected partner.

**How is the virus spread?**

- The hepatitis C virus is spread by contact with contaminated blood or plasma.
- Contaminated needles and syringes are a source among IV drug users.
- The role of person-to-person contact and sexual activity in the spread of this disease is unclear.
- Hepatitis C virus is **not** spread through casual contact or in typical school, office, or food service settings.
- It is **not** spread through the aerosol route, e.g., an infected person coughing or sneezing.
- The virus **cannot** be acquired by drinking out of a glass used by a person infected with hepatitis C.

**How soon do the symptoms appear?**

## Contact Information

(702) 759-1300

[snhdpublicinformation@snhdmail.org](mailto:snhdpublicinformation@snhdmail.org)


Symptoms of acute hepatitis C may appear within six to nine weeks after exposure. However, they can also occur as soon as two weeks and as long as six months later. People with chronic hepatitis C may not have symptoms for many years.

**What are the symptoms?**

The symptoms of acute hepatitis C may include:

- loss of appetite
- stomach pain
- nausea
- vomiting
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes)
- dark urine
- clay-colored bowel movements

Less than 30 percent of those infected will develop acute symptoms of hepatitis C.

Most infected people will develop chronic infection. This infection may persist for many years without symptoms, before cirrhosis (liver disease) or liver cancer develops.

**How long can an infected person spread the virus?**

Infected people may spread the virus indefinitely even if they do not experience symptoms.

**How is hepatitis C diagnosed?**

There are several blood tests that can be done to determine if a person is infected with the hepatitis C virus. Usually a second test is necessary to confirm the diagnosis. These tests cannot determine whether the infection is new (acute) or chronic.

**How good is the blood test used by blood donation centers?**

The hepatitis C test used by blood donation centers is only a screening test to eliminate hepatitis C virus from the nation's blood and plasma supply.

People who test positive on the hepatitis C virus antibody test should consult a doctor and be retested using other types of blood tests.

**How can hepatitis C be prevented?**

- Syringes, tattooing, and acupuncture needles should not be shared or reused.
- Personal items such as toothbrushes and razors should not be shared.
- People who have multiple sexual partners should use condoms each time they have intercourse.

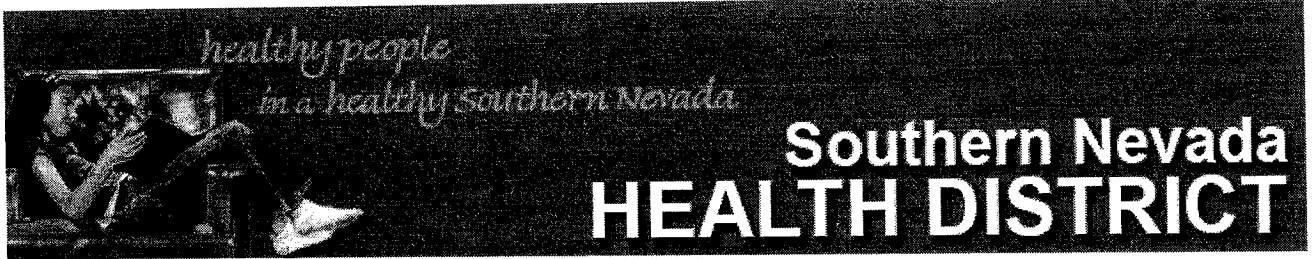
**Where can I find information about hepatitis C clinics and patient resources in Clark County?**

Visit the [Hepatitis C Patient Clinics and Resources](#) webpage for a directory of services and providers.

**Where can I get more information?**

Contact your doctor or the Southern Nevada Health District, Office of Epidemiology at (702) 759-1300.

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## Health Topics

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### Hepatitis C Patient Resources & Clinics

There is no vaccine to protect people from hepatitis C. Visit the [Hepatitis C FAQ](#) webpage for more information.

#### Hepatitis C Toolkit

Download the **[HONOReform Compassionate Response Hepatitis Toolkit](#)** PDF 16MB to learn more about the important issues that face people diagnosed with hepatitis.

#### Hepatitis C Screening and Medical Care Locations

**Access to Healthcare Network** [accesstohealthcare.org](http://accesstohealthcare.org)

4530 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 10  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
(702) 489-3400

If you are un-insured or underinsured, please contact Access to Healthcare Network to find out if resources are available for health care assistance. Access to Healthcare Network (AHN) is a one-stop solution for Nevadans who don't have healthcare insurance or other coverage.

#### Nevada Health Centers, Inc. Clinics

Cambridge Family Health Center  
3900 Cambridge St., Suite 101  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
(702) 307-5415

Eastern Family Medical and Dental Center  
2212 S. Eastern Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
(702) 735-9334

Las Vegas Outreach Clinic  
47 W. Owens Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89030  
(702) 307-4635



#### Contact Information

(702) 759-1300

[snhdpublicinformation@snhdmail.org](mailto:snhdpublicinformation@snhdmail.org)



MLK Family Health Center  
1700 Wheeler Peak Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
(702) 220-9932

NLV Family Health Center  
2320 McDaniel St., Suite C  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030  
(702) 214-5948

Nevada Health Centers, Inc. provides medical and dental care to all patients. It accepts most insurance programs, Medicaid, Medicare, Nevada Check-Up, Women's Health Connection and it offers a sliding fee schedule to uninsured patients.

Appointments are strongly recommended; some sites do see walk-ins for emergency needs. Call the medical center to check on walk-in availability and to confirm the necessary documents required for the sliding scale program; such as a proof of income, proof of home address, proof of dependents, and picture I.D.

Each facility has a physician on duty. There are a pediatrician at NLV Family Health Center, a pediatrician at the Eastern Family Medical and Dental Center, and a pediatrician at Cambridge Family Health Center. There is also a dentist at the Eastern Family Medical and Dental Center.

Depending on income, payment is based on a sliding scale.

#### **Hepatitis C Treatment Clinic for Veterans**

Dr. Farooq Shaikh  
3880 S. Jones Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89103  
(702) 636-3005







Veterans may call for both medical and counseling services eligibility. The VA provides a wide range of medical, counseling and support services.

#### **Hepatitis C Support Groups**

##### **Community Counseling Center**


714 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 101  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
(702) 369-8700  
Contact person: Sherry Burch  
Support Group: Wednesdays, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

#### **Information Resources and Advocacy Groups**

American Liver Foundation: [www.liverfoundation.org](http://www.liverfoundation.org)   
Caring Ambassadors: [www.hepcchallenge.org](http://www.hepcchallenge.org)   
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm)   
HCV Advocate: [www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)   
Hep C Association: [www.hepcassoc.org](http://www.hepcassoc.org)   
Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group: [www.hepatitiscmsg.org](http://www.hepatitiscmsg.org) 

#### **Hepatitis C Support and Resource Programs**

##### **Be In Charge program**

1(888) 437-2608 (24-7 nurse support)  
Website: [www.beincharge.com](http://www.beincharge.com) 

Be In Charge Program is a patient educational program provided by Schering Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc. It offers free personal support to people diagnosed with hepatitis C who are either not yet on therapy or who are receiving PEG-INTRON (peginterferon alfa-2b) Powder for Injection alone or in combination with REBETOL (Ribavirin, USP) Capsules; or INTRON A (interferon alfa-2b, Recombinant) for injection therapy. People enrolled in the program have access to specially trained nurses and educational materials. If participants choose, a personal nurse counselor will be assigned to them who will call them periodically to answer their questions and encourage them throughout their therapy.

**Pegassist Patient Support Program**

1(877) 734-2797 (24-7 nurse support)

Website: [www.pegassist.com](http://www.pegassist.com)

Pegassist is a comprehensive patient education and support program. It provides important information about hepatitis C, treatment options, and tips for daily living when you have hepatitis C. The program also provides a toll-free telephone number to talk to nurses—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—who will provide guidance throughout your treatment with PEGASYS alone or in combination with COPEGUS® (Ribavirin, USP). This program is supported by Genentech.

**Aspire Patient Support Program**

1 (888) 668-3393

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM EST (non-holiday)

Saturday and Sunday: 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST (non-holiday)

Aspire® Patient Support Program — Kadmon

Dedicated registered nurses are available by phone to help answer patients' questions about their medication.

**Vertex GPS: Guidance & Patient Support**

1-855-VERTEX-GPS (1-855-837-8394) (24/7 Toll-Free Nurse Support Line)

[www.incivek.com/vertex-guidance-patient-support](http://www.incivek.com/vertex-guidance-patient-support)

Vertex GPS is program sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Registered nurses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With nurse support, you can Talk with a registered nurse about treatment with INCIVEK triple therapy and Get answers to questions about hepatitis C

**Hepatitis C Patient Assistance Program****ACT Program**

1(866) 363-6379 (8:00 AM – 8:00 PM EST, Mon. – Fri.)

The ACT Program is a program sponsored by Merck. It assists hepatitis C patients in providing lifesaving drugs at no cost to eligible individuals. These medicines include PEG-INTRON (peginterferon alfa-2b) Powder for Injection; REBETOL (ribavirin, USP) Capsule; INTRON A (Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant) for Injection; and VICTRELIS (boceprevir).

**Aspire Patient Support Program**

1 (888) 668-3393

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM EST (non-holiday)

Saturday and Sunday: 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST (non-holiday)

Aspire Patient Support Program is a program sponsored by Kadmon Pharmaceuticals. It provides free medication to hepatitis C patients with limited or no insurance coverage. These medicines include Ribasphere RibaPak (ribavirin,

USP) Tablets; INFERGEN (Interferon alfacon-1); and Ribasphere (ribavirin, USP) Tablets and Capsules

**Genentech Access to Care Foundation (GATCF)**

1 (888) 941-3331

[www.genentechaccesssolutions.com](http://www.genentechaccesssolutions.com)

Genentech Access to Care Foundation is a program which provides Pegasys (peginterferon alfa-2a) for injection and PEGASYS in combination with COPEGUS (ribavirin, USP) free to patients who lack prescription coverage and the means to pay for the medications they need.

**Vertex GPS: Guidance & Patient Support**

1-855-VERTEX-GPS (1-855-837-8394) (Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM EST)

For eligible patients, Vertex GPS offers co-pay assistance for patients with commercial insurance who need help paying out-of-pocket medicine costs and offers INCIVEK free to eligible patients who do not have insurance or whose insurance company does not cover INCIVEK.

**Clark County Social Services**

Main Office

1600 Pinto Lane

Las Vegas, NV 89106

M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(702) 455-4270

(800) 492-3177 - Rural Clark County

Clark County Social Services has additional locations, but they suggest an early arrival for “screening” to determine eligibility for Medical Assistance Services.

The information packet may be downloaded from the Clark County website <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/> under Service. The packet is quite detailed and it lists items that clients need to bring for their appointments.

Some of the services that may be provided are Medical Assistance, Financial Assistance, Long term Care, Counseling, and Homeless Services etc.

**Specialty Pharmacy Services**

**Consumer Health Assistance**

555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 4800

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 486-3587

(888) 333-1597

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/CHA.htm>

Consumer Health Assistance offers prescription medication assistance for people who can't afford medication. Manufacturers provide free medication to patients who are unable to afford it. Consumer Health Assistance helps clients determine alternate options.

**Walgreens Infusion Services**

3920 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite H

Las Vegas, NV 89102

(702) 258-0011

Walgreens Infusion Services provides specialty pharmacy therapies for hepatitis C.

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