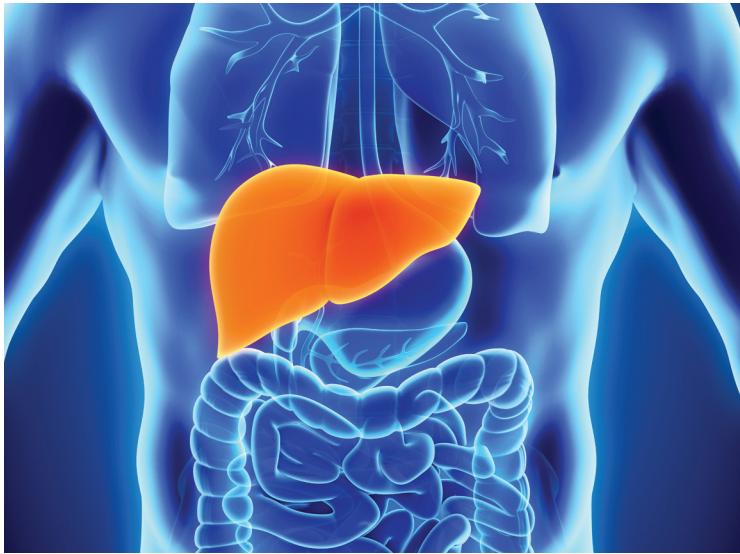


# KRMC DISEASE MANAGEMENT CLINIC

## HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)



### What is Hepatitis?

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Causes for Hepatitis include viral infections, heavy alcohol use, certain drugs, and some diseases.

The most common type of viral infections that affect the liver are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

### What is Hepatitis C Virus?

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a contagious liver disease. Acute hepatitis C refers to the first several months a person is infected. Sometimes, people can clear HCV from their body without medication. If HCV does not clear, the disease can become chronic. Chronic HCV can cause liver damage, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, and even liver cancer.

**Need help? Call our  
hepatitis C care coordinator at  
263-HEPC (928-263-4372).**

### How is HCV spread?

HCV is spread through infected blood. This can include:

- Sharing needles or other injection drug equipment
- Blood transfusions/organ transplants prior to 1992
- Unprotected sex
- Tattoos and piercings with non-sterile instruments
- Exposure to infected blood

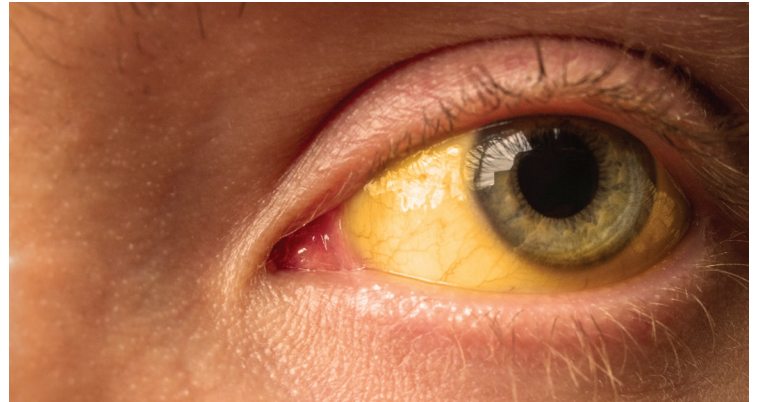
It is not possible to always know when and how you have been infected, so it is important to be screened at least once in a lifetime.

### What are the symptoms of HCV?

Many people with HCV have no symptoms and do not know they are infected. In acute infections, symptoms can occur from 2 weeks to 6 months after infection. In some patients with chronic HCV, symptoms can take decades to develop.

### If symptoms occur, they can include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Throwing up
- Grey-colored stool
- Yellow skin and eyes
- Feeling tired
- Upset stomach
- Dark urine
- Joint pain



Note: It is common to have no symptoms or very mild symptoms with HCV infection. It is important to get tested if you have any risk factors for hepatitis C.

Rev. 07/23

**KRMC Disease Management Clinic**  
3801 Santa Rosa Drive, Suite D  
Kingman, Arizona 86401  
(928) 681-8738  
[www.azkrmc.com](http://www.azkrmc.com)



PREVENTION | DIAGNOSIS | TREATMENT | RECOVERY

# KRMC DISEASE MANAGEMENT CLINIC

## HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)

### Who should get tested for Hepatitis C Virus?

According to CDC guidelines, all adults aged 18 and over should be screened at least once in a lifetime.

The CDC recommends testing for people of any age with recognized conditions or exposures, including:

- People with HIV
- People who have ever injected drugs and shared needles, syringes, or other drug preparation equipment
- People with persistently abnormal ALT levels
- Long-term hemodialysis patients
- People who received donated blood or organs prior to 1992
- Children born to mothers with HCV infection
- Healthcare workers exposed to HCV

Routine periodic testing should be done for people with ongoing risk factors while risk factors persist, including:

- People who currently inject drugs and share needles, syringes, and other drug preparation equipment
- People who ever received maintenance hemodialysis

### Tests for Hepatitis C

- The HCV Antibody blood test can tell if you have ever been infected with the virus.
- The HCV RNA blood test can tell if you have a current infection. Finding the virus in your blood means you have hepatitis C and should talk to a health care provider who is experienced in diagnosing and treating the disease.

### Can Hepatitis C be treated?

Hepatitis C is treatable. A simple oral medication regimen has a cure rate of over 90% and minimal side effects. Treatment must be supervised by a qualified care provider. It is important to see a health care provider to discuss your treatment options.

### Can someone be re-infected with Hepatitis C?

Yes. Someone who clears the virus – either on their own or with successful treatment – can become infected again. After starting treatment or clearing the virus, it is important to take the following measures to prevent infection in yourself and others:

- Do not share or reuse needles or syringes to prepare and inject drugs
- Do not share personal items such as razors, nail clippers, toothbrushes, glucose monitors or any other product that may have come in contact with blood
- Always practice safe sex by using condoms or dental dams
- Do not get tattoos or body piercings from an unlicensed facility or in an informal setting



Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about hepatitis C virus.

Rev. 07/23

**KRMC Disease Management Clinic**  
**3801 Santa Rosa Drive, Suite D**  
**Kingman, Arizona 86401**  
**(928) 681-8738**  
**www.azkrmc.com**



PREVENTION | DIAGNOSIS | TREATMENT | RECOVERY