

# Hepatitis C Treatment



You have been diagnosed with hepatitis C. This sheet provides information on the treatment available at the Addiction Medicine Clinic. The program is specifically designed for people with hepatitis C who are or have been using drugs or alcohol.

## What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a virus that attacks the liver. 85% of people infected with hepatitis C become chronic carriers, that is, they have the virus and can transmit it. In some cases, chronic infection causes fatigue, stomach aches, and loss of appetite. It can also cause joint, muscle, or skin problems. Over time, HCV sometimes leads to complications such as cirrhosis or cancer of the liver.

## Why should I be treated?

In more than 95% of chronic carriers, treatment cures the infection, completely eliminating the risk of transmission.

## Who can be treated?

The treatment is intended for hepatitis C carriers. The disease can be treated with success, even in the presence of physical and mental health problems or drug addiction.



## What does treatment involve?

Hepatitis C treatment is generally very well tolerated. In recent years, it has become simpler and shorter. It is an antiviral treatment that is given in the form of medication taken by mouth.

## How do I prepare for treatment?

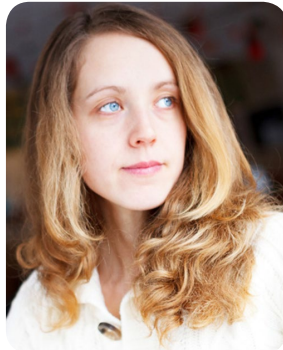
Tests need to be done before treatment. They are done over a period of about 6 weeks at the CHUM Addiction Medicine Clinic. These tests are:

- Analysis of the type of virus and its quantity in the blood
- FibroScan exam and ultrasound of the abdomen (to assess the condition of the liver), if needed
- Complete blood workup
- Physical exam

## Who will be with me during the treatment?

There is a whole team ready to help you. The members are:

- > **Yourself:** You are part of the team. You are consulted at every step and for every decision. The success of the treatment depends very much on your motivation and commitment.
- > **Nurse:** The nurse will assess your overall situation and will support you in your process. The nurse coordinates the stages of testing and treatment.
- > **Doctor:** A generalist who is an expert in drug addiction, the doctor will assess your state of health, prescribe treatment and look after the follow-up. The doctor can also offer you support for substance use, if necessary.
- > **Psychiatrist:** As a mental health specialist, the psychiatrist will help with psychological problems during or after the treatment.
- > **Your network:** If you want, your family and friends and any community or health workers helping you will be included in the team.

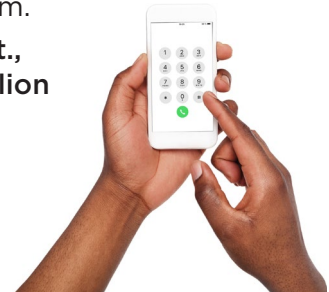


## Who can I ask if I have questions?

For more information or to have hepatitis C treated at the Addiction Medicine Clinic, contact us directly. A doctor's referral is not required.

CHUM Addiction Medicine Clinic. Business hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- > **1051 Sanguinet St.,  
11th Floor, C Pavilion**
- > **514 890-8321**



### USEFUL RESOURCES

Other health sheets published by the CHUM are available. Ask for those that might fit your situation.



You can also find them on our web site [chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante](http://chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante)

## What other resources are available to me?

All the other services of the Addiction Medicine Clinic and the CHUM are at your disposal: methadone or Suboxone program, vaccination, social workers, medical specialists, etc.

There are also different community organizations that can give you support. We can refer you to a resource that fits your needs.



### Questions


*The content of this document in no way replaces the recommendations and diagnoses made, or the treatment suggested by your health professional.*

To find out more about the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal [chumontreal.qc.ca](http://chumontreal.qc.ca)