

# TRANSMISSION & PREVENTION

## *Sexual Transmission of HCV*

**HIV** and Hepatitis C are transmitted in similar ways. HIV is transmitted by blood and bodily fluids. The most common transmission route of HIV is from having sex with an HIV-positive person. HCV is transmitted by blood.

The most common risk factor for getting hepatitis C (HCV) is from sharing HCV-infected needles and works (cookers, cottons, water, etc.). The other risk factors for transmitting hepatitis C are receiving a blood product or solid organ transplant before 1992, receiving clotting factors before 1987, mother-to-child, needle stick or other blood exposure and receiving long term hemodialysis (filtering of the blood). There is also potential risk from using non-injection drug equipment (pipes, straws, etc.) unsafe tattoos (shared needles, ink, unsterilized tools and services) and sharing HCV-infected personal items (razor blades, toothbrushes).

Sexual transmission of hepatitis C (HCV) among people in a stable long-term monogamous relationship is a risk factor, but doesn't happen very often. However, there are other factors that increase the chances of getting hepatitis C through sex such as having sex with a lot of different people, having a sexually transmitted disease, or engaging in any sexual activity that involves blood (fisting, cutting, etc.) Having HIV also increases the chances of giving or getting HCV. In fact some studies have found that HIV-positive gay men and HIV-positive men who have sex with men have a much higher chance of acquiring HCV through sex.

educate yourself

### Check this out:

- Everyone with HIV should be tested for HCV
- To prevent sexual transmission of HCV and HIV practice safer sex—make sure there is a barrier between your blood/bodily fluids and others

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