

EASY C FACTS

Methadone and HCV Treatment

There are many people who take methadone who also have hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short). If you have hepatitis C and take methadone and your liver is damaged you may need to be treated with HCV medicines. Talk to your doctor to find out if you need to be treated.

There are two drugs used to treat HCV that are taken together. One of them is called pegylated interferon; it is a drug that needs to be injected under the skin once a week. The other medicine is a pill called ribavirin that is taken two times a day with food.

The medicines used to treat HCV can have some side effects. Some people who take HCV medications say that some of the side effects remind them of the way they felt when they tried to stop taking street drugs. The good news is that most of these side effects can be taken care of by working closely with a doctor or nurse. The other good news is that up to half of the people taking HCV medications can clear or eliminate HCV from the body.

Remember.....

- ◆ Talk to your doctor or nurse about ways to stay healthy and if you need to be treated, and talk with your doctor or nurse about how to manage any side effects.
- ◆ People with HCV and who are also taking methadone can be treated for their HCV.
- ◆ If you decide to be treated, find out about the side effects.

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