Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL)

Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma ("non-hodge-kins-lim-foam-a") or NHL is a form of cancer. Hepatitis C (HCV) can cause NHL, but it is uncommon for most people infected with HCV to get NHL. NHL occurs when the body’s immune system makes so many new cells to fight infections that they crowd out the many older cells that work better to fight off infections.

The symptoms of NHL are swollen (but not painful) lymph nodes—glands under the skin in the neck, armpits and groin. Other symptoms include weight loss, fever, night sweats, coughing, trouble breathing, chest pain, feeling weak, tired, pain, and swelling and fullness in and around the stomach.

It is important to talk with your doctor or nurse to find out if you should be tested. The best way to treat NHL in people with HCV is with HCV drugs – this only works when HCV causes NHL.

Remember:

✦ NHL is a form of cancer that can be caused by hepatitis C
✦ NHL in people with hepatitis C is not very common
✦ NHL in people with hepatitis C can be treated with HCV medications
✦ If you can’t afford the medications to treat HCV check out our fact sheet: Patient Assistance Programs

For more information about these conditions visit our HCSP Fact Sheets