

# EASY C FACTS

## Cryoglobulinemia

Cryoglobulinemia (Cryo for short) is a condition caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV for short). With Cryo, when blood gets cold proteins clump together and then dissolve when the blood warms back up. This can cause damage to blood vessels, muscles and organs in the body.

The symptoms of Cryo can range from mild to severe itching, fatigue (tired), muscle, joint, body, and stomach pain, kidney problems and blood vessels problems. A common sign of Cryo is red or purple blotches on the skin seen on the legs. Cryo can also lead to nerve damage and pain on the feet and legs, and other parts of the body. Cryo can lead to many serious problems. If you think you have Cryo talk to your doctor or nurse and have them test you for Cryo. If you do have Cryo, treatment of HCV can cure Cryo or it can help with the symptoms. There are also other treatments that can help.

### *Remember:*

- ◆ Cryo is a serious condition that is caused by HCV
- ◆ Talk with your doctor or nurse about whether you should be tested
- ◆ HCV treatment can cure Cryo or reduce the symptoms of it
- ◆ Make sure your doctor or nurse includes any symptoms or conditions in your medical records
- ◆ If you can't afford HCV treatment there are programs that can help. See our [Patient Assistance Fact Sheet](#)

*For more information about these conditions visit our [HCSP Fact Sheets](#)*

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