

# EASY C FACTS

## What is an HCV Genotype?

Not everyone with hepatitis C (HCV for short) has the same kind. In fact, there are seven different kinds of HCV. These different kinds are called *genotypes* and are numbered from 1 to 7.

Some genotypes have further divisions called *subtypes* (for example, 1a and 1b). The test to find out the genotype is a blood test.

Genotype information is important because *different drugs are used for different genotypes*, and will help decide how long someone will need to be treated.

The important thing to remember is that having a certain genotype does not mean that your liver will become more or less damaged.

## Remember.....

- ◆ Genotype information is important to know since the types of medicines used to treat HCV and the time someone is treated is based on the genotype.
- ◆ Since the genotype doesn't change, you will just need to have the test once, unless you become re-infected.
- ◆ Genotype information is important because it will tell your doctor important information including:
  - ◆ What HCV drugs to take.
  - ◆ How much of one of the medicines to take.
  - ◆ How long you will need to take the medicines.

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)