



## What is an HCV Genotype?

Not everyone with hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) has the same kind. In fact, there are six different kinds of HCV. These different kinds are called *genotypes* and are numbered from 1 to 6.

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 it *'predicts'* how well treatment will work, how much of a certain medication (ribavirin) to take, and 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.....*

- ◆ Just because you have a certain genotype does not mean that your liver will become more or less damaged.
- ◆ Since the genotype doesn't change, you will just need to have the test once.
- ◆ Genotype information is important because it will tell your doctor important information including:
  - ◆ The chances of getting rid of the virus.
  - ◆ How much of one of the medicines (ribavirin) to take.
  - ◆ How long you will need to take the medicines.

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