



# frequently asked

# About Hepatitis C

## Sexual Transmission of HCV

**Q** Does this mean that it can still be passed in this group of people?

### answer

Yes, there is still the chance of passing it on to your sexual partner. Both people in the relationship need to discuss the risk and (even though low) there is a slight possibility that someone could give or get hepatitis C even in this group.

**Q** What about a person who is not in a stable monogamous relationship?

### answer

That's where it gets a little more complicated. We believe that people who have a lot of sexual partners, have a sexually transmitted disease such as herpes, HIV or hepatitis B or any sex that involves blood, are at a higher risk for transmitting

or getting hepatitis C through sex. The chances for having blood exposure through anal sex, rough sex, and dry sex are also higher. Sex toys that are shared between partners could also have blood on them. In these cases it is always best to practice safer sex (barriers such as condoms, etc.) to prevent giving or getting hepatitis C and other diseases.

**Q** What about sex when a woman is having her menstrual period?

### answer

That's an important point to bring up. Since there is blood present it is recommended that barrier methods are used during sex.

**Q** Is there other advice about sex and hepatitis C?

### answer

Yes, there are practical tips for preventing transmission in general. Remember that blood is the issue so any open cuts or wounds should be covered and it's probably always best to err on the side of caution whenever blood is present just to be safe.

**Q** Who should I talk to if I have some questions?

### answer

It's always a good idea to ask questions – talk to your medical provider or a counselor about ways to stay safe. If at all in doubt it is always better to be safe until you learn all the facts about sexual transmission of hepatitis C.

### • Hep C FAQ sheet •

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The information in this fact sheet is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.

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