Hepatitis C (HCV) is a virus that affects the liver. HCV is spread through blood-to-blood contact, sexual contact and from a mother to her baby during birth. People at risk for hepatitis C include injection drug users, infants born to infected mothers, those who received a blood or organ transplant prior to 1992, recipients of blood clotting factor prior to 1987, those who are HIV-positive, and men who have sex with men.

Many people who are infected with hepatitis C do not have symptoms. If symptoms do occur they include yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), nausea, clay-colored stool, or dark urine. Hepatitis C is detected with a blood test and many types of hepatitis C can be cured.

If left untreated, infection with hepatitis C can lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, the need for a liver transplant, and death.

Get tested to know your status. To find out how to get no- or low-cost testing, visit www.knowyo.org.