



## GROUP HEALTH CENTRE

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# Ontario Hepatitis Nursing Program Hepatitis A, B and C... What's the Difference?

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### TRANSMISSION:

#### *Hep A*

- ~ Contaminated food
- ~ Contaminated water (*ice cubes*)
- ~ Oral-fecal route

#### *Hep B*

- ~ Blood-to-blood
- ~ Sexual contact
- ~ Mother-to-infant

#### *Hep C*

- ~ Blood-to-blood
- ~ Sexual contact (*low*)
- ~ Mother-to-infant

### DISEASE PROGRESSION:

#### *Hep A*

- ~ Mild illness
- ~ Usually recover on own
- ~ Not a carrier

#### *Hep B*

- ~ 85% clear virus
- ~ Presence of Hep C can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer

#### *Hep C*

- ~ 5-15% clear virus
- ~ Presence of Hep C can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer

### TREATMENT:

#### *Hep A*

- ~ Supportive treatment until infection over

#### *Hep B*

- ~ Most adults fight off infection naturally
- ~ Interferon/antiretroviral therapies available

#### *Hep C*

- ~ Interferon and combination
- ~ Interferon and ribavirin therapy available

### VACCINE:

#### *Hep A*

- ~ Available (*free for persons with Hep C at Sexual Health Centre*)
- ~ Especially for travellers, high risk people and people with HIV, Hep B and/or Hep C

#### *Hep B*

- ~ Available (*free for persons with Hep C at Sexual Health Centre*)
- ~ Immunization in schools in Canada and for:
  - healthcare workers
  - travellers to endemic areas
  - people with HIV or Hep C

#### *Hep C*

- ~ Not available

“You should make sure that you have your Hepatitis A and B vaccine.”

Joanna (Street Outreach Nurse Practitioner)

