



GROUP HEALTH CENTRE

240 McNabb Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 1Y5
Tel: 705.759.1234
www.ghc.on.ca

Ontario Hepatitis Nursing Program
**How Does Hep C
Affect Pregnant Women?**

©GHC Communications 02/2010

- ~ Pregnant women cannot receive drug treatment for Hepatitis C because it will harm the baby.
- ~ If a woman has received Hep C drug treatment, she must wait 6 months before getting pregnant.
- ~ About 5-10 of every 100 mothers with Hep C will pass it on to their babies.
- ~ Most often, women who have Hep C feel normal when they are pregnant and also after the birth of the baby.
- ~ The blood tests for liver changes are usually normal in pregnancy, but tend to change a little after the baby's birth.
- ~ You can safely breastfeed your baby, but you must stop if your nipples become cracked or bleed. You may start again after they heal.
- ~ Most babies who get Hep C from their mother may be well for many years.
- ~ Children with Hep C may develop liver disease and are at risk for developing cirrhosis many years later.
- ~ A small number of children who develop cirrhosis may get liver cancer.
- ~ Hep C drug treatment is only given to people over the age of 18.
- ~ Children with Hep C should have regular check-ups with a doctor who knows about Hep C.