



GROUP HEALTH CENTRE

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Ontario Hepatitis Nursing Program What About Hep C Drug Treatment?

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~ There is a drug treatment, but it is not for everyone.

~ You and a Hep C specialist will decide if you should receive drug treatment.

~ Once the decision to be treated is made, you will receive lots of information about the treatment and the side effects from the specialist.

~ Different doctors use different guidelines for treating but generally:

- You cannot receive treatment if you drink alcohol because the treatment will not work.
- People under the age of 18 cannot receive the treatment.
- Pregnant women cannot receive the treatment because it harms the baby.
- You cannot receive treatment if you are using drugs.
- Some doctors treat people who are stabilized on a methadone program.
- Treatment can cause severe depression, so a doctor may wait until you are feeling emotionally well before starting the treatment.
- You may not need drug treatment if your liver is still very healthy.

Some other facts about Hep C drug treatment:

~ Treatment is very expensive, but you may be eligible for financial assistance.

~ You may need to be on the treatment anywhere from 6 months to 1 year.

~ You will take pills every day and inject yourself once a week.

~ There can be serious side effects, but everyone's experience is different.

~ If you clear the virus with drug treatment, you can get the virus again if you engage in risky behaviours.

“Get on the treatment if you can - it kick-started me to go back to school and study.” Gerry (cleared Hep C with drug treatment)

