HCV Treatment

What to expect & how to advocate for yourself

HCV is curable

New medications make HCV treatment fast and effective without painful side-effects.

Today, people can be cured of HCV with as little as one pill a day for 12 weeks.

Substance use does not disqualify you

Providers must ask about substance use as part of a routine check-up. You can decide how much or how little to share.

Your provider cannot refuse you treatment due to substance use according to treatment guidelines.

If you have questions or problems with this, contact PHRA or HEP. Case managers are available to help you get treatment.

HCV specialty care & medication

can take 4 weeks

- Don't wait until you feel sick:
  - Establish care with a point person who can run tests that screen for HCV and potential liver damage

Primary Care

Testing

- Antibody tests exposed to HCV?
- Viral load tests confirm HCV
- Lab work & liver scans to see if and how HCV has impacted body

Referral to HCV Provider

- Specialist care
  - Requires insurance approval/prior authorization
- Provider will review labs, discuss best treatment options for you

HCV Treatment

- Specialty medication daily
- Need insurance approval
- No generic HCV meds exist
- Type of meds depend on your condition and HCV strain genotype
- Cured when viral loads undetectable

Insurance

HCV is considered a SPECIALTY and needs prior approval for insurance coverage

Up to 30 days for approval once a provider submits a request for meds

Prior Authorizations

HCV specialty meds often aren't available at regular drug stores & pharmacies

Specialty meds typically require mail order pharmacies

Don't have a safe place for meds to be delivered?

PHRA & HEP can help!

Questions?

PHRA: (206) 330-5777
HEP: (206) 732-0311

Insurance - HCV

PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS

If insurance denies a request, you can submit an APPEAL. Contact your provider.