



I have horrible back pain. Desperation drove me to opioids and sharing needles. Am I at risk for hep C?

September 11, 2018 By [Lucinda K. Porter RN](#)

Yes. Sharing needles and drug-related equipment is the most common way that [hepatitis C is transmitted](#). However, roughly 15 to 25 percent of people who are initially infected will clear the virus on their own, and not develop the chronic form of hep C.

[Diagnosing hepatitis C](#) begins with an antibody test. Antibodies can be detected in the blood, usually within two or three months after exposure. Six months after an HCV exposure, a blood test can detect whether you developed the chronic form of the disease.

Consider getting help if you are still dealing with chronic pain. September is [Pain Awareness Month](#), and a time when more information is released about the latest in pain management. If you still rely on sharing needles for pain relief, the Harm Reduction Coalition provides information about [safer drug use](#).

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/horrible-back-pain-desperation-drove-opioids-sharing-needles-risk-hep-c>