Who Is at Risk for Hepatitis C?

October 9, 2017

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is transmitted when the blood of an infected person passes into the blood of an uninfected person. You may be at risk for hep C and should contact your health care provider for a blood test if you:

- Were born between 1945 and 1965, regardless of any other HCV-related risk factors
- Were notified that you received blood or an organ from a donor who later tested positive for HCV
- Have ever injected illegal drugs, even if you experimented only a few times many years ago
- Received a blood transfusion or solid-organ transplant before 1992
- Received a blood product for clotting problems before 1987
- Have ever been on long-term kidney dialysis
- Have evidence of liver disease (such as persistently abnormal liver function tests)
- Have HIV
- Have an HCV-positive mother
- Have been exposed to HCV through your occupation. (Note: The risk to health workers of acquiring HCV following a needlestick injury is quite low, averaging 1.8 percent.)

You may also be at risk for HCV if you:

- Have ever gotten a tattoo or piercing in a nonprofessional setting where equipment such as ink, inkwells or needles were used and potentially unsterilized

- Have had multiple sexual partners or sexually transmitted diseases
- Have ever inhaled cocaine or shared other non-injecting drugs.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.
http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/risk-hepatitis-c