



Falling Apart with Hepatitis C

June 14, 2018 By [Karen Hoyt](#)

Karen Hoyt is a blogger who has a story about hepatitis C, cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease, liver cancer, and liver transplantation. This excerpt first appeared on Karen's [I Help C blog](#).

Have you ever had a perfectly fine day turn into a hot mess? It happened to me recently. I made it through, and even learned a few lessons. Mostly, I survived. It started when I met with the mechanic for an engine check. We had been feeling it downshift occasionally. I was fine right up until the checker inner guy asked me what was wrong. All of a sudden, I slumped down and tears sprang to my eyes. The room went blurry. My purse felt like it weighed 90 pounds. After leaning on the counter, I tried to tell him my story. Looking back, I was falling apart with the long term side effects from Hepatitis C.

Who Knows About the Treatment and Side Effects?

Maybe it was just the old effects of cirrhosis and [hepatic encephalopathy](#).

Maybe it was because my body still has side effects from long term, old school [Ribavirin](#) and Interferon. The newer drugs are safer and provide a cure from Hep C way quicker.

Maybe it was because I remembered needing new tires right after my diagnosis AND after losing my [health insurance](#) but before [social security disability](#).

Maybe it's because there were times in the past where I felt alone while making important health decisions.

Maybe it was because I can act really brave and strong, when inside, I really need a shoulder to lean on.

Maybe it was a combination of all the above.

That day, instead of telling the mechanic that my car was shifting down into lower gears ... I began to cry. I started blubbering about how I was driving to the cancer hospital in 3 days for my 3 year check. I needed a safe car and was unsure what was wrong with mine. My hands got shaky and my palms were clammy and sweaty. I kept trying to tie in my story to what was going on at the moment. Bottom line: I needed to pull it together.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this blog and find out how Karen pulls it together.
