

## Hepatitis

### What is Hepatitis?

- Hepatitis is a serious virus that affects your liver.
- The most common forms of the virus are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
- Hepatitis B is the most common form of Hepatitis, and it is often spread through sexual contact.
- Hepatitis C is spread through IV drug use but also may be spread sexually.
- It is easy to become infected with Hepatitis B.
- It's 100 times easier to get Hepatitis B than HIV the virus that causes AIDS.
- There are more people infected with Hepatitis C than HIV.
- Approximately, four million Americans are infected with Hepatitis C; in comparison to the one million Americans who are infected with HIV.
- Hepatitis B can be prevented with a vaccine.

### What are the Signs and Symptoms of Hepatitis?

- Symptoms of Hepatitis include yellowing of the eyes and skin, abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting, fever, fatigue, and darkening of the urine.
- Sometimes there are no visible symptoms of Hepatitis.
- People can have the virus and not realize they are sick for a long time.

### How do I get tested for Hepatitis?

- There are tests that your health care provider can do to find the virus.
- The body produces antibodies that can be detected with a blood test.

### What is the treatment for Hepatitis?

- No specific therapy exists for Hepatitis B. Your health care provider will provide supportive care and treat the symptoms.
- Hepatitis B is the only sexually transmitted disease that can be prevented with a vaccine.
- Hepatitis C is treated through a series of injections to decrease the damage to the liver.
- To get vaccinated for Hepatitis B in the Philadelphia area, click here for a list of local family planning clinics. Outside of Philadelphia, please click here for a clinic near you [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org).

**REMINDER: Using a condom consistently can help to protect you from STD's, including hepatitis.**