



HEPATITIS C

Information, advice, testing,
support & training service

METHADONE

The good news is that methadone is safe for the liver

Many people who take methadone also have hepatitis C (HCV for short). In fact it may be that as many as 9 out of 10 people who take methadone also have HCV.

The good news is that methadone is safe for the liver unless the liver is so damaged that it cannot handle methadone very well.

If you have HCV and take methadone there are many things you can do to stay healthy. One of the best things you can do is to stop drinking alcohol or cut down on the amount of alcohol you drink.

People who have HCV and take methadone can be treated for HCV while taking methadone. Talk to your clinical specialist to find out if you need to be treated for HCV

It is important to remember:

- If you take methadone and have HCV you should talk to a doctor or nurse about ways to stay healthy
- Most people with HCV can live normal and healthy lives
- People with HCV and on methadone can be treated for their HCV
- Talk to your doctor to see if you need to be treated for HCV
- Side effects from HCV medicines can feel like withdrawing from drugs, most of these symptoms can be treated.

The good news is that up to about half the people taking HCV medications can clear the virus.

There are two drugs used to treat HCV that are taken together.

One of them, interferon, is a drug that needs to be injected under the skin once a week. The other medicine taken with interferon is called ribavirin. Ribavirin comes in either pill or capsule form and is taken two times a day.