

Frequently Asked Questions: Hepatitis C Treatment Information for MO HealthNet Participants

- **What is Project Hep Cure?**

Project Hep Cure offers MO HealthNet participants with hepatitis C treatment at **no cost**. It also focuses on:

- Educating the public about hepatitis C and treatment options
- Informing providers about the latest treatment options
- Making hepatitis C treatment easier to get for MO HealthNet participants

Although Project Hep Cure is only available to people with healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid), the hope is that providers will learn more about this simple treatment option and will offer it to all of their patients.

- **What is hepatitis C?**

According to the CDC, **hepatitis C** is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It spreads through contact with blood from someone with hepatitis C. It is possible to have hepatitis C and not experience symptoms. Once **symptoms** do appear, it often means there is advanced liver disease. Over half of those who have hepatitis C suffer long-term, life-threatening health problems like cirrhosis (liver scarring) and liver cancer.

- **How is hepatitis C spread?**

Common ways this virus can be spread include:

- Sharing personal hygiene products like your toothbrush, razors, and nail clippers
- Dialysis
- Blood transfusions
- Injection drug use
- Sexual contact
- Getting a piercing or tattoo with a needle that has not been properly cleaned

You cannot “catch” hepatitis C the way you can catch other viruses (like a cold, the flu, COVID, etc.). Hepatitis C can only be spread if you come in contact with the blood of someone who has hepatitis C.

- **How can I prevent hepatitis C?**

The best way to protect yourself is to not share personal hygiene products like your toothbrush, razors, nail trimmers, or anything else that could come into contact with your blood. You can also protect yourself by using condoms during sexual contact and only getting a tattoo or piercing from a licensed shop with safety measures in place.

MAVYRET® offers **more information** on the symptoms, spread, and prevention of hepatitis C.

- **What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?**

In most cases, there are no noticeable symptoms of hepatitis C. This means you can have the virus and not even know it. If you do feel symptoms, the most common are tiredness and depression. These symptoms could also be mistaken for other health issues, so hepatitis C can still go undiagnosed without testing.

- **Should I get tested?**

The CDC recommends anyone age 18 or older get a one-time test for hepatitis C. You should especially consider getting tested if you have any of the **risk factors** for the virus.

- **How do I get tested?**

Visit your MO HealthNet provider and ask to be screened and tested for hepatitis C. A hepatitis C test is a simple blood test that checks for the virus.

If you do not already have a doctor that accepts MO HealthNet coverage, you can search for one through your **health plan** or through the **MO HealthNet provider search**.

- **What happens if I test positive for hepatitis C?**

If you test positive for hepatitis C, ask your doctor if prescription **MAVYRET®** is right for you. If your doctor prescribes this treatment, you will simply need to take three pills once a day with food for the course of your treatment. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **What is MAVYRET®?**

MAVYRET® is a prescription drug that stops the hepatitis C virus from multiplying, ultimately curing the virus. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **Am I eligible for hepatitis C treatment?**

Anyone can get treatment for hepatitis C. To be eligible for **free** treatment through Project Hep Cure, you must have healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid). If you do not already have MO HealthNet coverage, you can **apply for help**.

- **Is there a cost?**

If you have MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid), testing and treatment for hepatitis C are available to you at **no cost**. If you do not have MO HealthNet coverage, you will need to discuss the costs with your doctor.

If you do not already have MO HealthNet coverage and you think you may be eligible, you can **apply for help**.

- **What if I do not have healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet?**

You do not have to have MO HealthNet to be treated for hepatitis C. Talk with your insurance company and your doctor to see what your options are. If you do not have health insurance, you can **apply for MO HealthNet**.

- **When will I know if I'm cured?**

You will be considered cured if no hepatitis C virus is found in your blood test three months after you finish MAVYRET®. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **What is AbbVie?**

AbbVie is the pharmaceutical company that produces MAVYRET®.

- **How do I get my prescription?**

If your doctor prescribes you **MAVYRET®** you will fill the prescription at your local pharmacy.

- **What are the side effects of MAVYRET®?**

The most common side effects of MAVYRET® are headache and tiredness. Although rare, there are also **other serious side effects** that could occur. Your doctor should monitor you throughout your treatment and check for signs and symptoms of worsening liver problems.

- **What should I tell my doctor before taking it MAVYRET®?**

Before taking **MAVYRET®** you should let your doctor know:

- About all medical conditions and your health history
- Any medications or supplements you take
- If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding
- If you have any history of Hepatitis B or liver problems
- If you have had a liver or kidney transplant

Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your doctor. Your doctor can tell you if it is safe to take MAVYRET® with other medicines.

- **What is a Nurse Ambassador?**

Once you have a MAVYRET® prescription, you can connect with a **Nurse Ambassador** who can help you understand:

- Chronic hepatitis C
- The insurance process
- How to take MAVYRET®
- Specialty pharmacies