

Information on Hepatitis C

Please note the following information written by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a section of the US Department of Health and Human Services:

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus. Today, most people become infected with the Hepatitis C virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. For some people, hepatitis C is a short-term illness but for 70%–85% of people who become infected with Hepatitis C, it becomes a long-term, chronic infection. Chronic Hepatitis C is a serious disease that can result in long-term health problems, even death. The majority of infected persons might not be aware of their infection because they are not clinically ill. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C. The best way to prevent Hepatitis C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the disease, especially injecting drugs.

Highmark BlueCross BlueShield has advised members of the Trust that if they are interested in getting a test for Hepatitis C, to:

“Contact Customer Service at Highmark BCBS to verify eligibility of that benefit. Customer Service will likely need procedure and diagnosis codes to determine eligibility”.