

RESOURCES

The NW HCRC at the Portland VA Medical Center offers the following services for veterans with hepatitis C:

- **Hepatitis C Education Class:**
A one-time education class for veterans and their loved ones on the basics of hepatitis C. Includes question and answer time.
- **Hepatitis C Support Group:**
A monthly support group for veterans and their loved ones, every 3rd Wednesday from 6pm-7:30pm. Michelle Blum, LCSW and Veteran Gene Mask co-lead.
- **Liver Health Forum:**
A monthly informational forum that features various speakers on liver-health related topics. For veterans, their loved ones, providers and the general community. Held the 2nd Thursday of every month from 5:30pm-7:00pm.
- **Health Information Center:**
A lending library of books, videos and brochures about hepatitis C (open Monday-Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm in Building 100, 2nd floor)

PORTLAND NW HCRC CONTACT INFORMATION

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INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

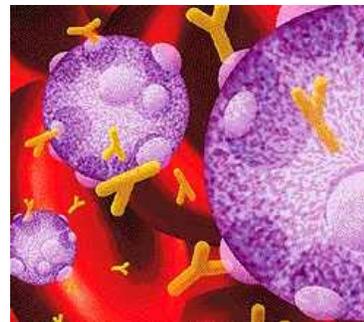
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MEDICAL CENTER**





WHY HEPATITIS C?

The diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C is an important mission for the NW HCRC. About 3-4 million individuals in the United States are infected with the hepatitis C virus and it may be up to 4 times more common in veterans treated within Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). Recently, the Department of Veteran Affairs mandated hepatitis C counseling and testing be offered to all veterans at risk for the disease.



At the Portland VA Medical Center, there are over 3,000 veterans who have tested positive for the hepatitis C antibody, meaning they have been exposed to the virus at some point in the past.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The NW HCRC also provides:

- Referrals to the Portland VA Medical Center liver, mental health and substance use treatment clinics.
- Evaluation and follow-up care for those receiving antiviral treatment.
- Opportunities to participate in hepatitis C research studies.



ABOUT US

The Northwest Hepatitis C Resource Center (NW HCRC) was established in 2002 and has centers at both the Portland and Seattle VA Medical Centers.

The NW HCRC's major goals are:

- to improve the process of care for veterans with hepatitis C
- to improve quality of life for veterans with hepatitis C
- to increase long-term follow-up care for the complications of hepatitis C

The NW HCRC serves veterans with hepatitis C in addition to those who care about them. Among our resources, we offer education, support groups, and the opportunity to participate in research about hepatitis C.

FINDING US

We are located in the Mental Health Clinic, Bldg 104, P2 level, one floor below Primary Care. Contact information is listed on the back of this brochure.