

## Talking Hepatitis C - Resource for staff point-of-care testing

Hi.....

We are partnering with the hepatitis C team to offer hep C testing.

Hep C is a virus that is spread from blood to blood. In some cases it causes scarring in the liver that can lead to liver failure and liver cancer, but these days it is easily curable.

The team have given us these handy “at risk’ cards. Take a look. If you can say yes to any of these, and you don’t have to explain which, I can do a finger prick test that will tell us if you have been exposed to hep C.

This finger prick test picks up an antibody that circulates in your blood. Some people come into contact with hep C but their immune system gets rid of it, but it still leaves this antibody in your blood which tells us you have been exposed.

If the test is positive, we will arrange a blood test with the hep C nurse. This is called a viral load and will tell us if you still have hepatitis C.

If that viral load test is positive, the nurse will arrange treatment for you, which is free and very effective and can cure your hep C.

If the test is negative, it means you have not been exposed and you do not have hep C.

If you think you are currently at risk, you can go to the website “stick it to hep C “ and look up places that do testing should you need it. If you are at risk through sharing needles it’s a good plan to get a test yearly.

Many thanks for looking after yourself and getting tested today.