



## Congratulations! You have completed your treatment for hepatitis C.

You are probably wondering what will happen now.

**In 3 months** you will need blood work, including a test that will look for hepatitis C virus in the blood. This is called an HCV RNA level.

If there is no hepatitis C virus detected in your blood the HCV RNA test will be negative. A negative test 12 weeks after you finish treatment is called a “sustained virologic response” and means you no longer have hepatitis C.

\_\_\_ You do not have advanced scarring of the liver. It is recommended you have blood tests (liver function test and alpha fetoprotein) yearly for 5 years after treatment completion. There is no need for you to continue being seen in liver clinic.

\_\_\_ You have advanced scarring of the liver you will need:

- o An ultrasound of your liver and a blood test (AFP) every 6 months to check for liver cancer.  
Your next ultrasound/lab test is due \_\_\_\_\_.
- o If you have advanced fibrosis (but not cirrhosis), you should have liver function tests and AFP yearly as well.
- o If you have cirrhosis, you should have a CBC, CMP, PT/INR, and AFP yearly as well.
- o A yearly appointment in liver clinic.  
Your next appointment is due \_\_\_\_\_.

### You are not immune to hepatitis C.

It is possible to become re-infected with the virus. To prevent you from being re-infected, avoid all blood – this includes not sharing needles, razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers with people who have hepatitis C. Remember to practice safe sex.

Please note: The hepatitis C antibody test will remain positive after you are cured of hepatitis C. This is your immune system remembering that you had the virus. The proper test to see if you have hepatitis C after treatment is the **HCV RNA** test which will look for virus in your blood.

Here are some things you can do to take good care of your liver and keep it healthy:

**Eat a balanced, healthy diet** that includes lots of vegetables, fruit, fish, whole grains, and low fat foods. Drink plenty of water & avoid soda.

**Do not drink alcohol or use drugs** because this hurts the liver.

**Exercise daily.** Aim for 30-60 minutes a day.

**Decrease stress in your life.** Talk to people who are supportive.

**Stop smoking.** Ask for help if you need it.

If you are coming to Anchorage, you may call the Liver Clinic ahead of your visit to schedule a Fibroscan. Fibroscan is a test using ultrasound waves to check liver stiffness or scarring/fibrosis in your liver. Fibroscan testing is done in the Internal Medicine Clinic. Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before the test.

If you have questions or concerns or would like to schedule a Fibroscan appointment, call us at: 907-729-1560 or 1-800-655-4837. **THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SEE US TODAY!**

**Again, congratulations! You did it!**