

Blood-borne viruses and STIs comprise of Hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS, STIs

## **Hepatitis B**

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) causes hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) and can also cause long term liver damage. There is a vaccine available to prevent hepatitis B infection, which should be given to all individuals who are at risk from hepatitis B infection.

## **Hepatitis C**

The hepatitis C virus was first identified in 1989. It is acquired mostly through blood-to-blood contact, although a small number may be sexually acquired. Most people who are infected have mild or no symptoms initially, so are often unaware of their infection. However chronic hepatitis C results in long-term liver damage for about 20% of those infected.

## **HIV/AIDS**

Transmission of HIV is predominantly through sexual intercourse, although it can also be transmitted by blood-to-blood contact and from an HIV-infected mother at birth.

The immediate public health challenges remain consistent across the UK: increasing incidence and prevalence of HIV; early identification of those infected; rising costs of care; inequalities in disease distribution and determinants; and the associated mortality and long-term morbidity.

## **STIs**

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are diseases that can be transmitted by unprotected sex, read more about the [types of STIs on Sexual Health NI](#).

## **[Information for the public](#)**

- [Hepatitis \(A, B, C, D\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [HIV | nidirect](#)
- [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) - Sexual Health NI](#)
- [Sexual health | nidirect](#)
- [Types of STIs - Sexual Health NI](#)

## **Treatment and vaccination**

### **Hepatitis B and C**

- [Hepatitis \(A, B, C, D\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network | Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network](#)

### **HIV/AIDS and STIs**

- [Preventing STIs - Sexual Health NI](#)
- [Vaccination - Sexual Health NI](#)
- [Sexually transmitted infections \(STIs\) - Sexual Health NI](#) website contains useful information on all blood-borne viruses and STIs.
- **Genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics specialise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of STIs and HIV.**
- Depending on where you live, services and advice on STI testing, your sexual health may be available from:
  - hospital clinics based in your local Trust area
    - [Belfast Trust GUM](#)
    - [Northern Trust GUM](#)
    - [South Eastern Trust GUM](#)
    - [Southern Trust GUM](#)
    - [Western Trust GUM](#)
  - online services ([SH24](#))
  - your own GP
  - young people's services [Free & Confidential Sexual Health & Wellbeing Advice | Common Youth](#)

## **Guidance for healthcare professionals**

- [Information for Healthcare Professionals | Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network](#)
- [Hepatitis \(A, B, C, D\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

## **Data and surveillance**

[Blood-borne viruses and STIs surveillance | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

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