

Hepatitis (A, B, C, D, E)

Hepatitis was traditionally separated into two types based on clinical and epidemiological characteristics: type A caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV) and type B caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Last reviewed
18 June 2026

Hepatitis A

- Transmission of hepatitis A is via the faecal-oral route, through contaminated food or water. Thorough cooking will destroy the virus, but shellfish, which are usually eaten raw, may become infected from sewage contaminated seawater and become a vehicle for transmission.

Hepatitis B (Hep B, HBV)

- The virus is transmitted parenterally and sexually. Transmission most commonly occurs following sexual intercourse, as a result of blood to blood contact, including injury with contaminated sharp instruments or other equipment by intravenous drug misusers, or by perinatal transmission from mother to child.

Hepatitis C (Hep C, HCV)

- The virus is associated with intravenous drug use or blood products. Sexual, vertical and occupational transmission do occur, but on a less frequent basis than HBV. Transfusion associated infection is now rare in the UK. A vaccine for hepatitis C is not available. Hepatitis C became a notifiable disease in July 2021.

Hepatitis D, E

- Other hepatitis viruses have been identified. Hepatitis D is always associated with co-infection of HBV. Hepatitis E, like HAV, is transmitted by the faecal-oral route, often associated with gross contamination of water supplies (usually by

sewage).

Information for the public

- [Hepatitis | nidirect](#)
- [What is hepatitis? \(easy read\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Hepatitis B - Sexual Health NI](#)
- [Hepatitis B - Could I be at risk? \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Hepatitis B: what your positive screening result means \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Hepatitis C - what now? Patient results factsheet \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Hepatitis C - Sexual Health NI](#)

Vaccination

Hepatitis B - Includes: Universal hepatitis B programme and hepatitis B vaccine for at risk babies, [Clinical guidelines on hepatitis B](#)

Guidance for healthcare professionals

Hepatitis B

- [Hepatitis B: Clinical guidelines/information | Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network](#)
- [Hepatitis B - Quick reference guide for primary care | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Hepatitis C

- [Hepatitis C: Clinical guidelines/information | Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network](#)
- [Hepatitis C - Clinician results factsheet | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Data and surveillance

- [NI Regional Hepatitis B&C Managed Clinical Network Annual Report](#)
- [Northern Ireland Hepatitis B & C Managed Clinical Network](#)
- [UKHSA Hepatitis B: guidance, data and analysis](#)
- [UKHSA Hepatitis C: guidance, data and analysis](#)

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