

## KNOW MORE

### Hepatitis B treatment

If you have chronic hepatitis B, you need to see your doctor regularly to check the health of your liver, as liver damage can happen at any time.

There are medications that can control the hepatitis B virus. They can reduce damage to your liver and reduce the risk of liver cancer. Your doctor will tell you if you need to take medication.

### Hepatitis B vaccination

Vaccination is the best way to be protected against hepatitis B. If you have been vaccinated for hepatitis B you cannot get the virus.




In Australia, the hepatitis B vaccination is free for newborns, children and adolescents, as well as family and people in close contact with someone who has hepatitis B.

Ask your doctor about the hepatitis B vaccination.





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service Multilingual Information

-  [www.mhahs.org.au](http://www.mhahs.org.au)
-  [info@mhahs.org.au](mailto:info@mhahs.org.au)
-  TheMHAHS

### Hepatitis NSW Hepatitis Infoline


-  [www.hepb.org.au](http://www.hepb.org.au)
-  1800 803 990

### Hepatitis Australia National Information Line

-  [www.hepatitisaustralia.com](http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com)
-  1300 437 222

### Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

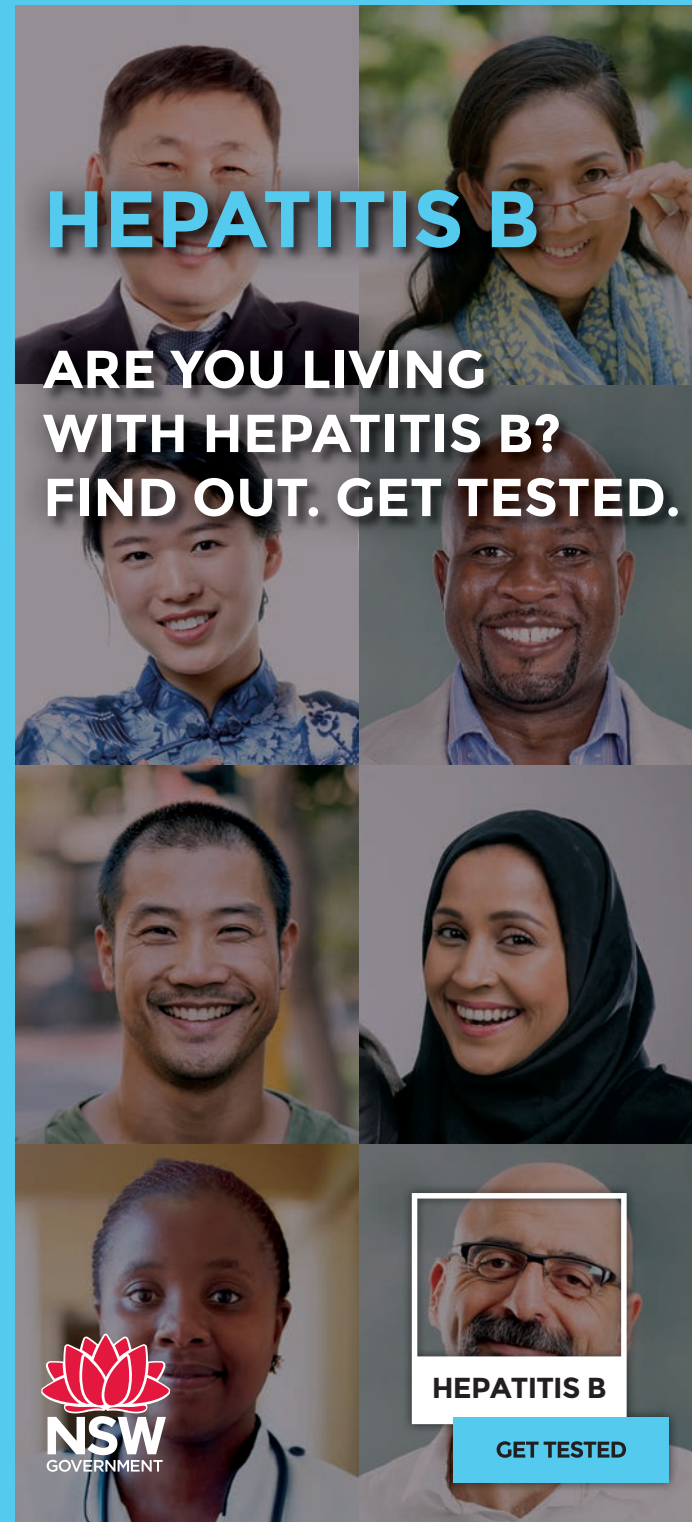
Speak with an interpreter in your language

-  131 450

[www.mhahs.org.au/index.php/en/hepatitis/hepatitis-b-testing](http://www.mhahs.org.au/index.php/en/hepatitis/hepatitis-b-testing)

# HEPATITIS B

ARE YOU LIVING  
WITH HEPATITIS B?  
FIND OUT. GET TESTED.



HEPATITIS B

GET TESTED

## WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus.

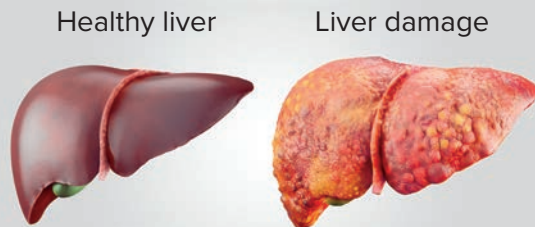
The word hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, it may not work properly and this can affect your health.

Hepatitis can be acute (short term) or chronic (long term).

Acute hepatitis B is when a person gets rid of (clears) the virus within 6 months. Once they clear it, they cannot be infected with the hepatitis B virus again and cannot pass it on to others.

Chronic hepatitis B is when the infection lasts for more than 6 months. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver damage (cirrhosis) and liver cancer.

Most people living with chronic hepatitis B don't know they have it, because it can take several years for the symptoms to appear.

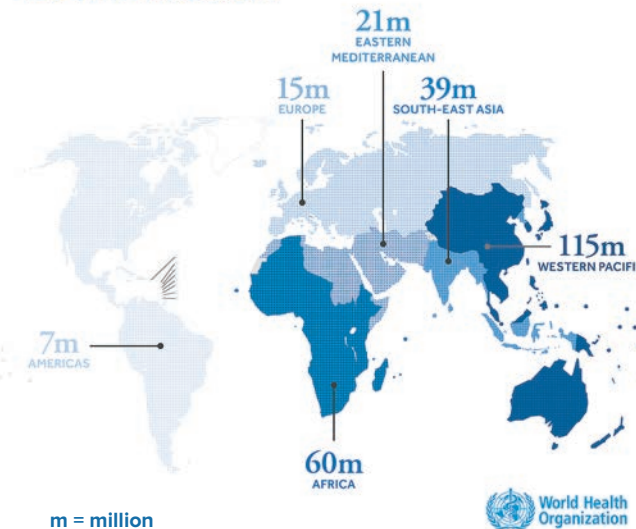


## ARE YOU LIVING WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is common in our communities.

The majority of people living with chronic hepatitis B in Australia were born in countries where hepatitis B is very common.

### HEPATITIS B IN THE WORLD



The younger a person is when they get hepatitis B, the higher the risk of developing chronic hepatitis B as an adult. The most common ways this happens are:

- At birth, from mother-to- baby.
- In childhood, from person- to-person through sores or cuts.

90% of babies who get hepatitis B will develop chronic hepatitis B.

## GET TESTED

**The only way to know if you have chronic hepatitis B is by getting a hepatitis B blood test. It is quick and easy.**

Ask your doctor for a hepatitis B test if you:

- Were born or have lived in a country where hepatitis B is common.
- Have a family member living with hepatitis B, liver disease or liver cancer.
- Live with someone who has chronic hepatitis B.
- Have had unprotected sex (sex without a condom).
- Have had a medical or dental procedure overseas, in countries where equipment is not sterilised (cleaned) properly.
- Have taken part in cultural practices that involve blood, such as tattooing, piercing or acupuncture.
- Had a blood transfusion overseas, or before 1990 in Australia.

