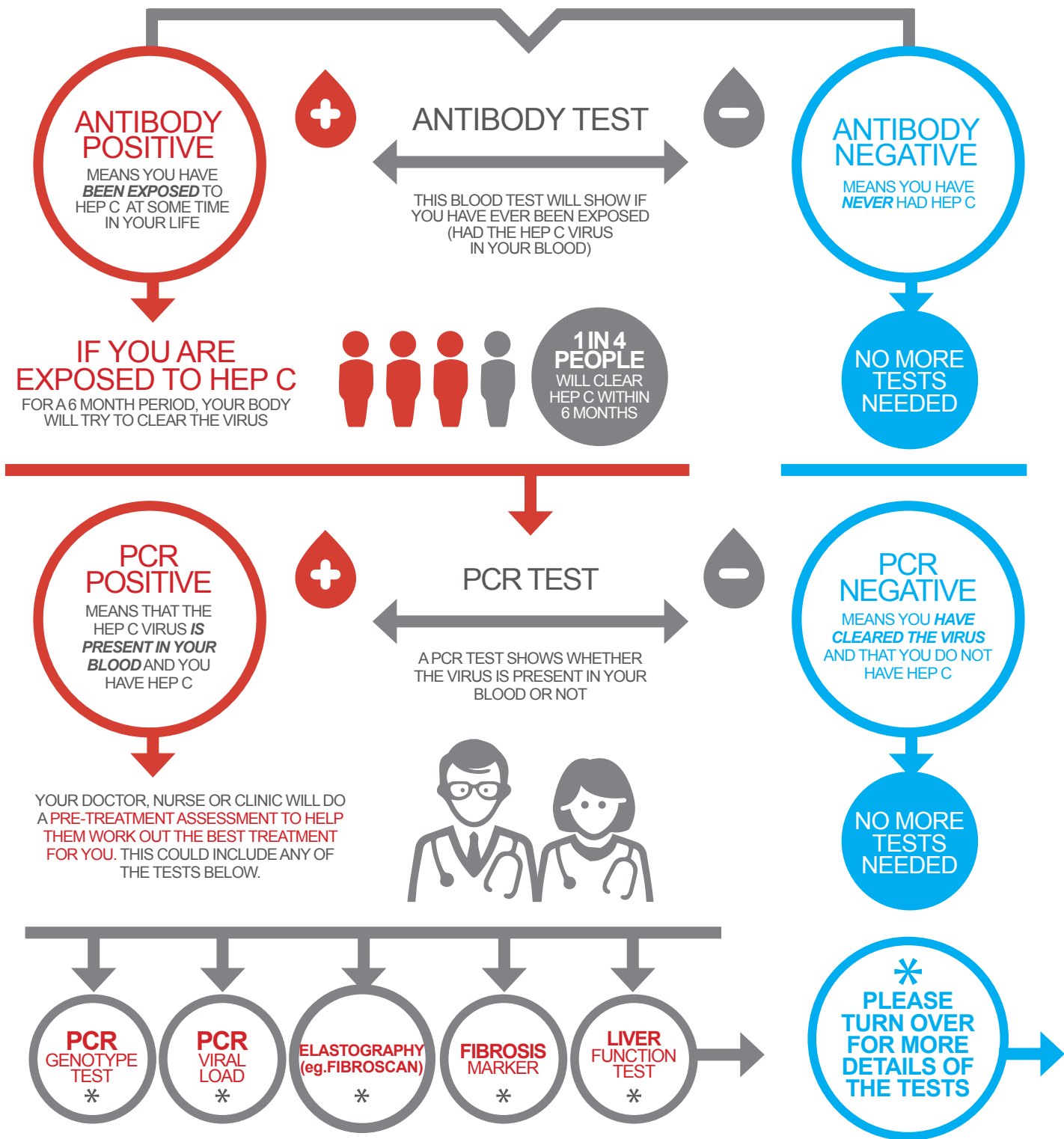


# HEP C TESTING

TO TEST FOR HEP C, START BY MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCTOR, NURSE OR CLINIC.



Hepatitis ACT is Canberra's community hepatitis organisation, funded by ACT Health to deliver a comprehensive range of hepatitis-related programs and no-cost supports.



(02) 6230 6344  
36 David St, Turner  
(opposite the O'Connor Shops)  
[info@hepatitisACT.com.au](mailto:info@hepatitisACT.com.au)  
[www.hepatitisACT.com.au](http://www.hepatitisACT.com.au)

# HEP C TESTING

BELOW IS AN OUTLINE OF SOME OF THE TESTS YOU MAY NEED BEFORE GOING ON TREATMENT

## PCR genotype test

A blood test that checks **which TYPE of hep C virus you might have.** This will help determine which combination of treatment will be prescribed for you. The different types of hep C virus are genotypes 1-6.

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## PCR viral load

This blood test **measures the amount of hep C virus in your blood.** This test may be used during your treatment to see if the treatment is working. You will get this test again, 12 weeks (minimum) after finishing treatment to check if your treatment is successful. You might also get your viral load checked before starting treatment.

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## ELASTO-GRAPHY fibroscan

Elastography is a **simple, quick, pain-free way to check for any liver damage.** It is like an ultrasound and doesn't hurt. It will indicate any fibrosis and cirrhosis. (If elastography is not available an ultrasound or APRI might be used instead.)

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## FIBROSIS marker

**Other ways to check for liver fibrosis are available.** The **APRI** method uses blood tests (liver function test/ full blood count). It is a useful tool to determine liver fibrosis when an elastography is not available.

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## LIVER function test

This is a blood test that **measures how your liver is working.** It can tell your doctor, nurse or clinic more about how well your liver is working by measuring certain levels in your blood.

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## OTHER medical history

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT to tell your doctor, nurse or clinic if you have been on **treatment for hep C before.** Your doctor, nurse or clinic will also look at your **medical history** and any other medications you might be taking to work out the best possible treatment for you. They will also discuss with you any other factors **that might make your hepatitis C worse**, like high alcohol intake, obesity or diabetes.

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Once you have been cured through treatment, there is **no need to have another antibody test ever again.** This is because even after cure, the hep C antibody test result will show positive, probably for as long as you live. The antibody test does not mean you have hep C. A PCR test which shows whether you have hep C or not.

And after cure from treatments, your hep C will not come back, unless you get re-infected by a new exposure to hep C through blood-to-blood contact with someone else with hep C.

People with advanced liver disease (e.g. cirrhosis) require ongoing liver health monitoring, even after cure.