

# HIV & HCV Coinfection

**Coinfection** is a term used when a person has two or more diseases at the same time. Since someone can get HIV and hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) in some of the same ways, as many as 2 to 3 people out of 10 with HIV are also infected with HCV.

Having both diseases can make it harder to manage your health than having just one disease. HIV seems to make HCV

worse by damaging the liver at a faster rate than for someone with just HCV alone. For this reason, it is important that your doctor understands how both HIV and HCV affect your health. Some people have a liver doctor and an HIV doctor who work together to keep you healthy.

The liver processes HIV medicines, so it is important that your doctor checks your liver regularly to make sure that the HIV medicines are not hurting the liver.

## *Remember.....*

- ◆ Everyone with HIV should be tested for HCV.
- ◆ If you have HIV and HCV try not to worry too much – there are many things you and your doctor can do to help you stay healthy.
- ◆ Make sure you get shots to protect you from getting Hep A and Hep B if you need them.
- ◆ There are medications that can cure HCV - talk with your doctor to find out if treatment is right for you.

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)

