

# EASY C FACTS

## Viral Load Test

If you have hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short), your doctor will take a lot of blood tests to help manage your health more effectively. One test, called the viral load test, will tell you if you have HCV in your body and how much of

the virus is in you.

When you have HCV it just doesn't stay in your liver, but it can also be found in your blood. HCV is very active and makes lots of copies of itself. The viral load test is the only way to measure how much HCV is inside you.

### *Remember.....*

- ◆ The viral load test is really important for many reasons, such as to find out if the virus is in your body. If you decide to go on HCV medicines, the viral load test will help to find out if treatment is working. After you stop taking the HCV medicines, the viral load test will tell you if the treatment permanently got rid of the virus from your body.
- ◆ The really important piece of information to know is that just because you have **more or less virus** in your body – it does not mean that your liver will become more or less damaged.

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

