

## About the Health Centre

London InterCommunity Health Centre has been a part of the community for more than 20 years. We provide health and social services in a welcoming setting to individuals and families living across the city of London. Our two East London locations offer care by a team which includes community health workers, doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, dietitians and mental health specialists.

Our vision is: building opportunities for healthy and inclusive communities.

## About Regional HIV/AIDS Connection

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection is a community-inspired organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and diverse communities living with, at-risk for or affected by the challenges associated with HIV/AIDS. We also provide HCV related services to individuals and organizations in an effort to address its increasing prevalence in our community. Partnership is integral to our work as we provide; prevention, education, support, and advocacy across our service delivery region.

## How to Get Help

If you think that your needs can be met by the Hepatitis C Care Team, you can refer yourself for care, treatment and support. You do not need to be a patient of the London InterCommunity Health Centre to qualify. You can also qualify even if you already have another doctor or nurse practitioner.

For general questions and to reach the Outreach and Peer Support Workers call: (519) 434-1601. For referrals, or questions about care, support or treatment, please call (519) 660-0875 x274.

Visit us online at:  
<http://lihc.on.ca/hepatitis-c-care-team/>



Care.  
Support.  
Treatment.

HEPATITIS C CARE TEAM

HEPATITIS C CARE TEAM



## Introduction

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and the London InterCommunity Health Centre are partners in a new program called the Hepatitis C Care Team. This program is for Londoners who are at risk for or living with hepatitis C.

We are here to meet the needs of:

- those at high risk for hepatitis C infection due to drug use
- those who are hepatitis C positive and have addiction and social issues (poverty, homelessness, mental health issues, etc.)

## Our Team

Our Team consists of an Outreach Worker, Peer Support Worker, Social Worker and Nurse Practitioner. We work in conjunction with numerous health and social service professionals including physicians, managerial and administrative support, support workers and educators to ensure that you are supported in all aspects of your life – physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual.

## Location

The Outreach Worker and Peer Support Worker are based at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (#30-186 King Street). The Social Worker and Nurse Practitioner have offices at the Health Centre (659 Dundas Street).

## Our Partners

We know that for you to be well, you need more than health care. That is why we partner with community organizations from across the city. These other organizations provide additional services to support our team. Examples are addiction services, housing agencies, social services, and specialized health care.

## How it Works

There are four major parts to the work we do. All of these parts work together closely so we can provide the best possible care for our clients.

## Screening

The first step for hepatitis C screening involves a “risk assessment” and having a blood test to check for exposure to the hepatitis C virus. If this test, the hepatitis C antibody is positive, there is an 80% chance that you have hepatitis C. A second test, called the Viral Load and Genotype test (or PCR) will determine if you have chronic hepatitis C. All of these tests, and others that determine how your liver is functioning, can be completed during drop-in screening. Please call for the days, times and locations of our drop-in screening clinics.

## Outreach

The main focus of outreach is to connect with clients in the community and to build trusting relationships. Our Outreach Worker and Peer Support Worker provide support, advocacy, and education about hepatitis C. Our outreach services work to help prevent the spread of hepatitis C in the community. We're also available to help you book and get to appointments. We can even attend with you if you'd like.

## Intensive Case Management

Living with hepatitis C is often complicated by addictions, mental health issues and social issues like poverty or homelessness. Our Social Worker will spend time with you learning about the barriers to good health and wellness that you face, and provide support to help you address some of these challenges.

## Hepatitis C Care & Treatment

Hepatitis C care addresses the mental and physical health symptoms that come with hepatitis C infection. Our Nurse Practitioner, supported by Health Centre physicians, provides this care as well as treatment for those who are stable and ready. If you are unable to receive antiviral treatment, we are still very committed to helping you to “live well” with hepatitis C. The Social Worker is also here to help you get through the mental ups and downs that can happen during treatment.