Vaccines
Keeping your liver healthy is important. If you have never been vaccinated against hepatitis A and B, you can get these vaccines during pregnancy. There is no vaccine that protects against hepatitis C.

Babies and Hepatitis C
Make sure your pediatrician knows if you have hepatitis C. Children born to mothers infected with HCV should get tested for the virus at age 6 months with a confirmatory test (RNA test) or at age 18 months with an antibody test.
(Source: www.hepatitisc.uw.edu).
It is okay to breastfeed your baby if you have hepatitis C. Consult your doctor if your nipples are cracked or bloody, because you can pass HCV to your baby through blood.

Anyone who has ever used a needle to inject drugs or has snorted drugs should get tested.

Routine Pregnancy Tests
- OB panel (blood type, RH factor, hepatitis B, HIV, syphilis, rubella antibodies)
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea
- Complete blood count

Additional Tests (If you have risk factors or concerns)
- Hepatitis C Antibody

Immunizations
- Influenza (anytime during pregnancy)
- Tdap (between 27-36 weeks)
- Hepatitis A + B (If you have not been vaccinated)

Immunizations are safe and needed during pregnancy to protect you and your baby.

Visit us online at www.tpchd.org
What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus, also called HCV. Hepatitis C can be passed between people, through blood.

Sometimes hepatitis C lasts only a few weeks and goes away without treatment. In other people hepatitis C is a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver and can result in serious liver problems, including scarring of the liver (cirrhosis) or liver cancer.

Most people will not have visible symptoms when they become infected. If someone does have symptoms, they might have dark urine, pale feces, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or yellowing of the skin or eyes.

No vaccine exists for Hepatitis C.

Testing During Pregnancy

**Talk to your provider about risks for hepatitis C and if you need to be tested.**

In some cases, a mother can pass hepatitis C to her baby during birth. Only 5% of babies born to mothers with hepatitis C become infected. Even though the risk is low, testing for hepatitis C is an important step in making sure your baby is healthy.

**Testing Steps**

1. **Hepatitis C Antibody Test (HCV Ab)**
   - This test checks to see if your body has made antibodies to fight the hepatitis C virus.
   - Negative Result - you do not have hepatitis C.
   - Positive result - it is possible you have hepatitis C. You will need to get a confirmatory test.

2. **Confirmatory Test**
   - Also called an RNA test, this test shows if you have current hepatitis C infection.
   - Negative Result - you do not have hepatitis C, even if your antibody test is positive.
   - Positive result - you have current hepatitis C infection. After the baby is born, you should talk to your doctor about getting treatment.

Treatment

There are new treatments available with fewer side effects that can cure hepatitis C. If you have hepatitis C, talk to your doctor about treatment options after delivery.