

## **ABOUT THE HEPATITIS CARRIER PROGRAMME**

The Hepatitis Foundation is contracted to the Ministry of Health to manage the national follow-up programme for hepatitis B carriers. As part of this we also follow-up hepatitis C carriers. We have a confidential register of carriers who are provided with simple regular blood tests (usually every six months). You will be included in this register if you wish. This service is free of charge if you are a New Zealand resident.

The blood tests determine if you are still carrying the virus and also check that your liver is functioning normally.

If your results show mild inflammation of the liver (i.e. slightly above the 'normal' range) or are normal, you will be tested six monthly.

For those who show a higher abnormality in liver function, tests are repeated three monthly or more frequently. If these tests do not return to normal, referral to a specialist is made, where a more detailed investigation is undertaken. This may include a physical examination, ultrasound and in some cases liver biopsy. The specialist, at this stage, will also evaluate for treatment.

A blood test form is posted to you when your blood test is due (or in some cases it is sent to your doctor who will recall you for a blood test). These forms can be taken directly to any medical laboratory where a blood sample will be taken. There is no cost to you if you are a NZ resident. In some cases, one of our nurses will organise a visit to your home to collect a blood sample and answer any questions (currently only available in the North Island). The results of the blood test are provided by the laboratory to your doctor and to the Hepatitis Foundation.

The results are usually processed within ten days, and in most cases a letter explaining the results is sent immediately to you.

All personal details are kept strictly confidential.

Regular blood testing under the follow-up programme enables early detection of liver problems including active chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer. In this way timely and effective referral for treatment is possible.

**For more information about hepatitis B or C please refer to the relevant leaflet or visit our webpage: [www.hepfoundation.org.nz](http://www.hepfoundation.org.nz)**

**Free-phone: 0800 33 20 10**

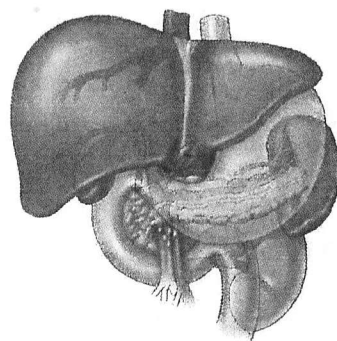
**Phone: 07 307 1259**

**Fax: 07 307 1266**

**Email: [hepteam@hepfoundation.org.nz](mailto:hepteam@hepfoundation.org.nz)**

**Web-page: [www.hepfoundation.org.nz](http://www.hepfoundation.org.nz)**

*(updated 23/08/08)*



## **The Hepatitis Foundation**

**We would like to offer you enrolment in the National Hepatitis Follow-up Programme.**

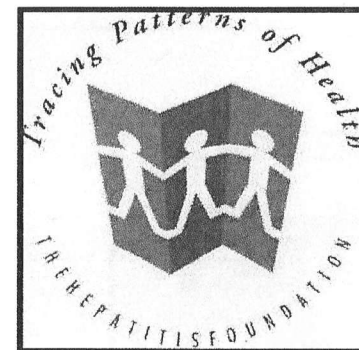
**Please read the following information.**

**If you wish to have free (NZ residents only), regular follow-up care, complete the consent form, over the page and send to:**

**Free Post No 191379,**

**HFNZ, PO Box 647,  
Whakatane 3080**

**Or ask your doctor to fax to:  
07 307 1266**



**Free-phone: 0800 33 20 10**