

Testing and Treatment: Hepatitis B

The only way to know whether or not you have hepatitis B is by getting a blood test. This can be done by a GP. These blood tests will tell you if you have ever been exposed to hepatitis B and got rid of it yourself, if you have been vaccinated or not and if you have hepatitis B currently.

Hepatitis B can be causing damage for a long time without the person having any symptoms. You cannot tell whether or not you have hepatitis B due to symptoms.

If you have CHB it is important to get regular check-ups. These include a blood test and often a liver ultrasound. These will show which stage of the infection you are in, how healthy your liver is and if you need medication or not. Your doctor will discuss with you how often you need testing.

Not everyone needs medication but regular check-ups are important to check this.

If the tests show you need treatment, you will always need to take the medication. It will not cure hepatitis B but will reduce the risks of liver damage, liver failure and liver cancer.

Two common medications are Entecavir and Tenofovir.