



**The Bridging Project: Strengthening the Community-Based Response to the
HIV/HCV co-infection epidemic in BC
November 23 & 24, 2011 - Prince George**

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On Wednesday November 23, 2011

A photograph of a misty forest path. The path is a narrow, dark brown dirt trail that winds through a lush green forest. The trees are tall and thin, with dense foliage. The ground is covered in vibrant green ferns and other plants. The overall atmosphere is serene and slightly hazy, with soft light filtering through the trees.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT
AND
ACCESSING TREATMENT FOR
HEPATITIS C

Sources of financial coverage

- Pharmacare
- Private insurance (extended health benefits)
- NIHB (status Aboriginals, First Nations, Inuit)
- PegCare, PegAssist
- Correctional centres

PharmaCare

- Register for Fair PharmaCare
- Deductible based on total taxable household income (income taxes current)
- Deductible Jan. 1 to Dec. 31
- Special authority required (have ALT checked ASAP)

Private Insurance

- Enquire re coverage before starting treatment
- Life time and annual ceilings



Peg-Care, PegAssist

- Assistance by pharmaceutical companies
- Submit income tax information
- Co-ordinate all sources of coverage

NIHB—status Aboriginals

- Only criteria chronic hepatitis c infection
- Require special authority
- Total coverage


Correctional centres

- Total coverage while incarcerated – access complicated when released
- Optimum would be completion of tx before release
- Need to have a plan with support (and be engaged) in place before release or re offend and back in—it takes a community to treat someone infected with hep c

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Deterrents to accessing treatment

- Stigma
- Health care workers who may not see the benefit and discourage doing tx
- Side effects
- Not understanding funding
- Life circumstances

A photograph of a forest path. The path is made of dark brown mulch and is flanked by lush green ferns and other undergrowth. In the background, tall, straight tree trunks rise up, and a light mist or fog hangs in the air, creating a serene and slightly mysterious atmosphere. The lighting is soft and diffused, typical of a forest interior.

The treatments are very successful in curing Hepatitis C, the key is taking them as prescribed

A photograph of a misty forest path. The path is made of dark brown mulch and is flanked by lush green ferns and other forest plants. Tall, thin trees are visible in the background, partially obscured by a light mist. The text "HAVE A PLAN" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

HAVE A PLAN

Before starting treatment...

- Work on physical and mental health
- Nutrition
- Support system; calm, predictable environment
- If an addict be in good recovery
- Write down pros and cons of treatment
- Eye exam
- Dental work
- Finances
- Birth control