

# Hepatitis B

**Hepatitis B** is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the hepatitis B virus.<sup>10</sup>

## TRANSMISSION<sup>11</sup>

Hepatitis B spreads through blood or other body fluids that contain small amounts of blood of an infected person. Babies and children can get hepatitis B in the following ways:

- At birth from their infected mother
- By touching open cuts or sores of an infected person
- Through sharing toothbrushes or other personal items used by an infected person
- Unlike hepatitis A, it is not spread routinely through food or water. However, there have been instances in which hepatitis B has been spread to babies when they have received food prechewed by an infected person

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS<sup>11</sup>

Adults and children over the age of 5 years are more likely to have symptoms. Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-coloured bowel
- Joint pain
- Jaundice (yellow colour in the skin or the eyes)

## POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS<sup>11</sup>

- Chronic hepatitis
- Cirrhosis
- Liver failure
- Liver cancer



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