

## Services

- Free HCV Testing
- Free HIV Testing
- Counseling and Education for Individuals
- Education Presentations in the Community
- Support Groups
- Referrals to Treating Physicians
- Financial Assistance for Medical Care
- Assistance with Laboratory Fees
- Continuing Education for Nurses and Physicians
- Advocacy

## Eligibility

- Missouri Resident
- Uninsured
- Underinsured
- Must Meet Income Guidelines
- Participation in Counseling/Support Services

## How To Enroll

**Contact Bruce Burkett**

at

**573-875-8687**

**1-800-785-2437**

**[bruce@missourirain.org](mailto:bruce@missourirain.org)**

## Support Groups

Columbia, Mo  
Second Monday of each month  
University Hospital, Room GL-11,  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Jefferson City, MO  
Third Sunday of each month  
Eagles Lodge, 1411 Missouri Blvd  
4:00 to 5:30 pm

Osage Beach, MO  
Third Sunday of each month  
Lake Regional Hospital,  
54 Hospital Dr. Conference Rm. D  
1:00-2:30 p.m.

Hannibal  
2nd Wednesday of each month  
County Health Dept.  
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Springfield  
2nd Wednesday of the month  
Doctors Hospital, 2828 National  
Dr.'s Conference Room  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Transplant Group  
1st Wed of the month  
Columbia, VA Hospital Auditorium  
2:00 to 3:30 pm



## **HCV/HIV Early Intervention Program**

*A Collaboration of the  
Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance  
and  
RAIN of Central Missouri*

*Funding for this program provided by the  
Missouri Foundation for Health*



## History of The Program

Founded in 1992, the mission of RAIN is to improve quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in North Central Missouri through advocacy, education and linkage to prevention and care services, programs and resources.

The Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance (MOHCA) was founded in 1999. The mission of MOHCA is to provide education in the community, support to individuals and families coping with Hepatitis C infection, and provide testing and treatment options for uninsured persons.

In 2004, RAIN and MOHCA developed the HCV/HIV Early Intervention Program to meet the need for:

- 1) Community based health education focusing on HCV and HIV,
- 2) Alternatives to clinic based testing for HCV and HIV, and,
- 3) Support, advocacy, and financial assistance for people who need access to primary care and treatment for Hepatitis C and HIV infection

## What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus that attacks your liver and other parts of your body. There are more than 4 million Americans infected with Hepatitis C and most of them don't know it.

### Risk Factors

- Blood transfusion prior to 1992
- Combat veteran
- IV drug use
- Tattooing
- HIV positive
- Sharing toothbrushes, nail clippers, or razors
- Body piercing
- Hemodialysis

### Symptoms of HCV

Symptoms do not always occur when a person is first infected with HCV. As the disease progress a person might experience:

- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Abdominal pain
- Vision problems
- Hair loss
- Confusion

## What is HIV/AIDS?

**HIV** - the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus** - is a virus that kills the cells that help your body fight off disease. **AIDS** - the **Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome** - is a disease you get when HIV destroys your body's immune system. When your immune system fails you can become very sick and can die.

### Risk Factors

- Blood transfusion before 1985
- Unprotected sex (oral, vaginal, or anal)
- Sharing a needle and syringe to inject drugs or sharing drug equipment used to prepare drugs for injection
- Babies born to women with HIV can become infected during pregnancy, birth or breast-feeding
- Any other contact with blood, semen, vaginal secretions, or breastmilk

### Symptoms of HIV

Symptoms are not a reliable way to diagnose HIV infection. An HIV Antibody Test is the only way to correctly diagnose an HIV infection.