



The Hepatitis C Mask

This mask, from the exhibit “Aggravated Organisms,” was carved by Drew Michael (Yupik/Inupiaq) and painted by Elizabeth Ellis (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq) to represent hepatitis C. This mask and 9 more representing other diseases explore how our bodies’ cells are sometimes overtaken by disease. The masks traveled through Alaska and the Seattle area to spread awareness before being burned in a traditional ceremony.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board aims to raise awareness of the hepatitis C mask, the story of its modern creation, and its message of the importance of hepatitis C testing and treatment.



Learn more

It’s time to make a decision to get actively involved, raise awareness, and care for ourselves and the ones we love.

Text CURE to 97779



NPAIHB
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

www.npaihb.org/hcv



Hepatitis C:

Everybody’s Responsibility

IHS, tribal, and urban Indian clinics can cure you of hepatitis C

“Getting treated makes you someone strong enough to get in and get help to wipe out this disease.”

-Deb Myers (Makah), cured of hepatitis C



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Get tested

We are responsible for each other and ourselves.

- Up to 75% of people with hepatitis C do not know they have it.
- Many people live with hepatitis C for decades with no symptoms.
- Baby boomers born from 1945-1965 are 5 times more likely to have hepatitis C.
- Hepatitis C can cause liver damage, liver failure, and even death.

Get treated

New treatments have very few side effects.

Treatment can be completed in as little as 8 weeks with 1 pill a day.

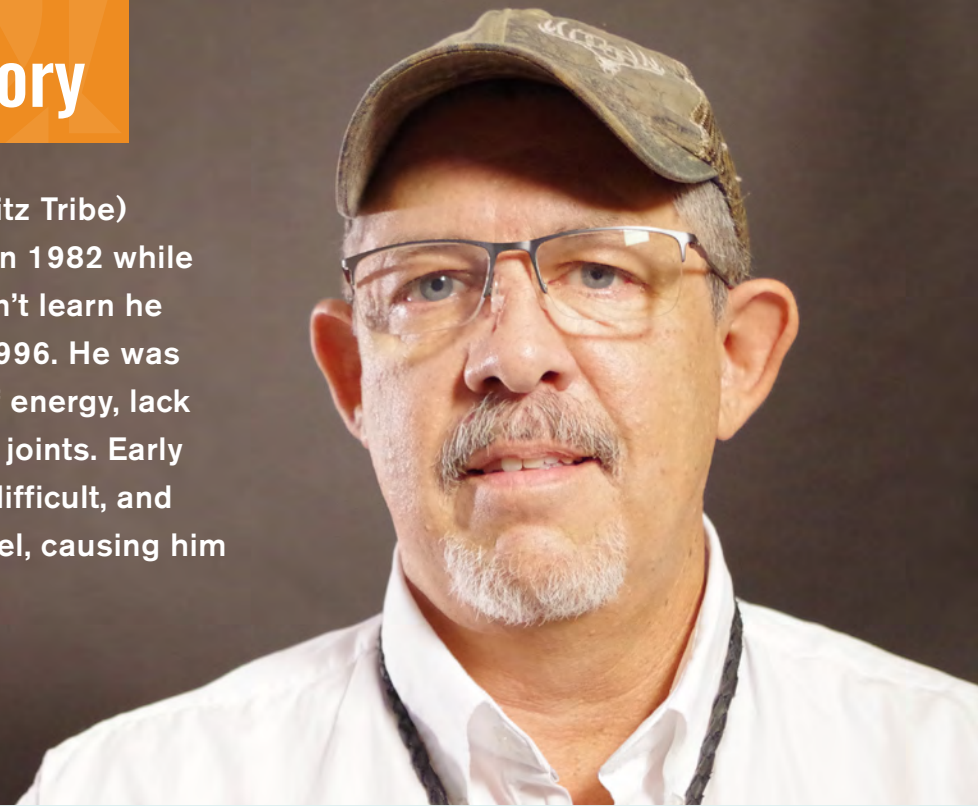
IHS or your tribal or urban Indian health center can help you find coverage for treatment.

Advocate for your health

- Help your doctor understand you're ready to put hepatitis C behind you.
- Express yourself and be clear—let your doctor know that you're ready to find a cure.
- Remember you are your best advocate. If your doctor doesn't provide treatment, ask to be referred to someone who does treat.

Michael's Story

Michael Buckner (Cowlitz Tribe) contracted hepatitis C in 1982 while getting tattoos, but didn't learn he had the disease until 1996. He was suffering from a loss of energy, lack of motivation, and achy joints. Early treatments were long, difficult, and unsuccessful for Michael, causing him to get discouraged.



“The long-term effects of having Hep C all these years have cost me greatly,” he said.

But recently, Michael was offered a new treatment—one that took just 12 weeks to cure him of Hep C.

“There were no side effects, and I’m happy to say I don’t have hepatitis C anymore. I’m more active, have more energy, am less achy, and feel more positive.”

Michael urges others to get tested and treated, too.

“It’s not going to go away unless you do something about it.”