

# Hepatitis C in Baby Boomers

## *Why are we concerned about Hepatitis C in baby boomers?*

Hepatitis C is a virus that causes an infection of the liver and may result in liver disease, liver failure, and even liver cancer. Anyone can get Hepatitis C but more than **75% of infected people are baby boomers born between 1945 and 1965.**



## *How is Hepatitis C spread?*

Hepatitis C usually spreads when blood from an infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected. While many people have no idea how they became infected, causes may include:

- Sharing needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject drugs
- Blood transfusions and organ transplants received before 1992 when widespread blood screening started
- Hospitalizations and other medical procedures (dental, etc.) before 1992
- Getting tattoos and other body piercings outside of licensed tattoo/piercing parlors

## *How do you know if you have Hepatitis C?*

**Most people have no symptoms and do not know they are infected.** Symptoms can take decades to develop as your liver becomes more impaired by the virus.

## *Can Hepatitis C be treated?*

Yes! But you must be tested first to know if you are infected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that anyone born from 1945 through 1965 get tested. Check with your doctor or call your local health department for free testing for Baby Boomers and other people with risk factors.

**For more information:** [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv)



10/15

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