# **GREENLIGHT HEPATITIS C – BABY BOOMERS**

# TEST → IDENTIFY → REFER → CURE

## Why the concern about Baby Boomers and hepatitis C (HCV)?



# HCV causes more deaths in US than all other infectious diseases combined<sup>1</sup>.

- 75% of the more than 4 million American with Hepatitis C are BABY BOOMERS2
- Few have symptoms and most are unaware of their infection.
- Over time, HCV can lead to cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease and liver cancer .
- Liver transplants, liver cancer and HCV-related deaths are on the rise
- Recent advancements in HCV treatment have made HCV a curable condition.
- CDC and Medicare recommend 1-time screening for Americans born 1945-19653,4,5
- HCV tests can be ordered by healthcare providers. Rapid tests available for community use



#### HCVAntibody Non-Reactive

- No history of HCV exposure
- Not Infected
- No need to retest unless new exposure to blood

#### **HCVAntibody** Reactive

- History of HCV exposure
- Determine if chronic infection by HCV RNA test
- Until further test results, advise to avoid alcohol
- The patient will always test reactive for HCV antibodies

#### **HCV RNA Negative**

- No current infection
- No presence of virus or chronic infection
- The patient can become re-infected

#### **HCV RNA Positive**

- INFECTED- HCV virus in the blood
- Assess current liver
- Advise patient to avoid alcohol
- Encourage immediate family to get tested



## **GREENLIGHT HEPATITIS C – BABY BOOMERS**

### If a client has HCV infection advise him or her to:

- Seek treatment and remain under the care of a healthcare provider when living with hepatitis C
- ✓ Eat a healthy, low fat diet
- ✓ Stay active... Exercise regularly
- Get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B
- Avoid/minimize alcohol intake assess and/or refer for alcohol or addictions treatment
- Don't share needles, equipment, razors, tweezers, or other items that may have blood on them
- Only receive tattoos and piercings from licensed artists and shops



In addition to age-based testing, CDC and USPSTF recommend patients with the following risk factors should be tested for HCV. Those with ongoing risk should be screen annually.

You can learn more about HCV, testing, diagnosis and treatment from CDC, your state health department and references below

## VISIT www.SHAPEHCV.org for more information and materials to support GREENLIGHTING HCV in your practice

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/hepatitis-c-screening



SHAPE (Supporting Hepatitis Awareness through Program Enhancement) is a program of Caring Ambassadors Program, a nonprofit organization empowering people to be ambassadors for their own health since 1997.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2016/hcv-press-release.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Dennison MM, et al. Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection in the United States, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2003 to 2010. Annals of Internal Medicince MArch 5, 2014 .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/Media/PDFs/FactSheet-boomers.pdf

 $<sup>\</sup>label{eq:product} {}^{4} \ http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/hepatitis-c-screening and the statement of the stat$