GREENLIGHT HEPATITIS C – BABY BOOMERS

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

HCV causes more deaths in US than all other infectious diseases combined.¹

- Age IS the risk factor.
- 75% of the ~4 million Americans with Hepatitis C are Baby Boomers²
- Few have symptoms and most are unaware they were exposed
- Over time, HCV can lead to cirrhosis, liver disease and liver cancer
- 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
- HCV tests can be ordered by healthcare providers. Rapid tests are available for community use

HCV TESTING ALGORITHM⁵

* For persons who might have been exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, testing for HCV RNA or follow-up testing for HCV antibody is recommended.

† To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding handling or storage of specimen.

Non-Reactive
No HCV exposure
Does NOT have hepatitis C
No need to retest unless new exposure to blood in past 12 weeks or after future exposure

HCV RNA Negative
Does NOT have hepatitis C
Has had past exposure
No presence of virus or chronic infection
The patient can become re-infected with new exposure

HCV RNA Positive
Has Hepatitis C
Assess current liver health
Avoid alcohol
Encourage family testing
Link to care

HCV Antibody Reactive
History of HCV exposure
Initiate HCV RNA test
Avoid alcohol until further test results
Will always be reactive for HCV antibodies

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Link to care
If a client has HCV infection advise him or her to:
✓ Eat a healthy, low fat diet, stay active and exercise regularly
✓ Seek treatment and remain under the care of a healthcare provider
✓ Get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B
✓ Avoid/minimize alcohol intake – assess and/or refer for alcohol or substance use treatment
✓ Don’t share needles, equipment, razors, tweezers, or other items that may have blood on them

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

TEST FOR HCV

- Born between 1945 & 1965
- Previous or current injection or nasal drug use (even if just once or long ago)
- Have abnormal liver function tests
- Got tattoo or piercing in setting with poor infection prevention practices
- Received blood transfusion or solid organ transplant before 1992
- Engaged in unprotected sex with an HCV+ person
- Share personal items that may come in contact with blood (razors, toothbrushes)
- Born to HCV-infected mother
- On chronic hemodialysis
- Healthcare workers with needlestick
- Received clotting factors before 1987
- Have HIV infection
- Born pre-mature before 1992–with transfusion

Learn more about HCV from CDC, your state health department and references below.

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

3 http://www.cdc.gov/knownmorehepatitis/Media/PDFs/FactSheet-boomers.pdf

The Greenlight Series was developed to help you make sure your HCV systems are set on GO!

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

www.caringambassadors.org