



## Executive Team

# GREENLIGHT HEPATITIS C – BABY BOOMERS

**HCV test for ALL patients born between 1945-1965<sup>1</sup>**

**TEST → IDENTIFY → REFER → CURE**

**Hepatitis C (HCV) kills more Americans than all other infectious diseases combined,<sup>2</sup> but you can help save lives.**

### BE A CHAMPION:

- ✓ **GREENLIGHT HCV** - let everyone know they have the "GO" to prioritize HCV testing
- ✓ **RECOGNIZE** Age **IS** the risk factor
- ✓ **DISCUSS** ways to make HCV testing a ROUTINE part of your organization
- ✓ **INCLUDE** HCV in your strategic planning processes
- ✓ **INTEGRATE** HCV into existing programs (education, awareness, discussion)
- ✓ **JOIN** national and local advocacy efforts

### LEARN:

- ✓ About 1 in 30 Boomers has HCV
- ✓ Most with HCV have no obvious symptoms nor know how they were exposed
- ✓ Liver damage can develop with few obvious signs and HCV impacts other health conditions
- ✓ Treatment can cure most people quickly with few side effects

### FACILITATE:

- ✓ **PROMOTE** the CDC recommended 1-time HCV test with other "boomer" services, like colonoscopy
- ✓ **EMPOWER** HCV Champions in your organization
- ✓ **DISCUSS** HCV-related concerns with program managers and other leaders
- ✓ **IDENTIFY** and schedule HCV training for staff
- ✓ **DEVELOP** partnerships for HCV services with organizations in your community
- ✓ **LEVERAGE** existing programs and identify HCV testing capacity building resources



**A few small steps can take your practice a long way toward preventing liver disease and liver cancer.**

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/2016/hcv-press-release.html>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/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](http://www.caringambassadors.org)





# GREENLIGHT HEPATITIS C – BABY BOOMERS

## HOW CAN YOU INCORPORATE HCV TESTING IN YOUR PRACTICE?

FREE resources are available.

Visit [www.CaringAmbassadors.org](http://www.CaringAmbassadors.org) to view and order materials to help you:

### INCREASE AWARENESS

- ✓ **INFORMATION STATIONS** - display brochures & posters
- ✓ **DISTRIBUTE** educational material to all staff
- ✓ **INCLUDE** HCV testing in all program plans and discussion

### PROMOTE TESTING

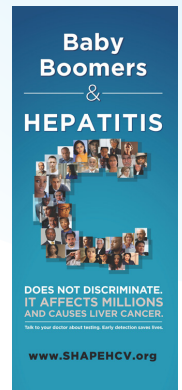
- ✓ **DISCUSS** need for HCV testing for Baby Boomer clients and others at-risk
- ✓ **CONNECT** with state or local health departments and viral hepatitis coordinators
- ✓ **IDENTIFY** agencies conducting community-based testing
- ✓ **CONSIDER** adding HCV ab testing to other screenings (like BP and diabetes)

### COORDINATE TESTING

- ✓ **SCHEDULE** testing events with community agencies
- ✓ **DEVELOP** testing procedures within YOUR organization
- ✓ **CONSIDER** implementing standing orders for "boomer" testing
- ✓ **PREPARE** your system for data collection

### COUNSEL and REFER

- ✓ **PREPARE** your staff for conversation with clients, families and other providers
- ✓ **DEVELOP** system-wide procedures for a "warm hand-off" to the specialist
- ✓ **REMIND** your staff to engage clients in follow-up care



**Take One and Share This with Your Physician** *Request that the hepatitis C antibody test be done as part of your visit today!*

75% of those who have hepatitis C were born between 1945 and 1965. You could be one of them. Your age puts you at risk.

Not a Baby Boomer? Additional risks are:

- Served in the military, especially Vietnam
- Received blood or blood products prior to 1992
- Shared paraphernalia while using or experimenting with drugs

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Test	Result	Meaning	Take-Home Message
Hepatitis C antibody	Not detected	• Possible exposure to HCV • No current or past infection	• To rule out HCV, repeat antibody test 3-6 months after exposure. • If you remain at risk for HCV, repeat antibody test 3-6 months after exposure.
Hepatitis C antibody	Detected	• History of exposure to HCV • Current or past infection • Possible risk factor for liver disease	• For research purposes, confirm the result with a second test (e.g., HCV RNA or HCV core antibody). • The patient will need to be referred to a specialist for further evaluation.
Hepatitis C RNA	Not detected	• Only if HCV antibody is detected • No current or past infection • No current or past infection	• If HCV antibody is detected, repeat HCV RNA test 3-6 months after exposure. • If HCV RNA is detected, the patient will need to be referred to a specialist for further evaluation.
Hepatitis C RNA	Detected	• Current or past infection • May require treatment	• Health care provider should refer patient to a specialist for further evaluation. • Keep well the doctor. • Watch for signs and symptoms of liver disease. • Only receive tattoos and piercings from licensed artists and shops.

#### Key Messages for Patients

- There is a cure for hepatitis C.
- 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 from using alcohol, tobacco, -smoke and/or weed for medical or addictive treatment.
- Don't share needles, equipment, razors, toothbrush, or other items that may have blood on them.
- Only receive tattoos and piercings from licensed artists and shops.

[www.SHAPEHCV.org](http://www.SHAPEHCV.org)



Visit [CDC.gov/hepatitis](http://CDC.gov/hepatitis) and your local health department for additional information



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