Do you know a Baby Boomer with HEPATITIS C?

DID YOU KNOW?

Hepatitis = inflammation of the liver, a vital organ in the body. There are several types of viral hepatitis, including A, B, C, D and E.

Any of the hepatitis viruses can cause serious illness or death but hepatitis C (HCV) is the most burdensome on the public health infrastructure.

> There are effective vaccines for Hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine for HCV. Hepatitis D & E are uncommon in the U.S.

Less than 50% of those infected with chronic HCV know their status, though damage is occurring silently to the liver.

Up to 20% of those living with chronic HCV will develop cirrhosis (severe scarring of the liver). This may lead to liver cancer and the need for liver transplant.

> 120,000 individuals living now will need a transplant in the future. There are only 7,000 livers available for transplant in the U.S. in any given year.

People with chronic hepatitis C remain infectious throughout their lives and can transmit HCV to others.

THE HEPATITIS C NUMBERS

- 4 million U.S. residents are living with HCV.
- 17,000 new HCV infections occur annually in the United States.
- 15,000 deaths occur each year—now exceeding those who die of HIV.
- 300,000 Floridians are living with HCV.

THE BOOMER FACTOR

- 5.3 million Baby Boomers live in Florida.
- Boomers with chronic HCV have now lived long enough to develop serious, life-threatening liver disease.
- Treatment can prevent HCV transmission to others and help to slow the epidemic.

WHY SHOULD BABY BOOMERS GET TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?

- Baby Boomers account for >75% of chronic HCV infections.
- Baby boomers are five times more likely to have HCV than the general population.
- Getting tested can help people learn if they are infected and get them into lifesaving care and treatment.
- Effective new treatments are available that can prevent liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Testing is now recommended by the CDC, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the AASLD/IDSA physician groups.
- Testing for HCV has become more accurate, making diagnosis easier.
- Historically, the available treatments were difficult to take (side effects and length of treatment).
- New treatment regimens that can effectively CURE Hepatitis C are available and more are coming soon.
- FUNDING HAS DECREASED BY 55% SINCE 2008 FOR HEPATITIS TESTING AND PREVENTION.

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