Everyone born between 1945 and 1965 is at risk for hep C

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force both recommend a one-time screening for the hepatitis C virus for all people born between 1945 and 1965.

Most people with hep C may have become infected in the 1970s and 1980s when rates of hep C were the highest, and before widespread blood supply screenings were introduced. Testing is critical because hep C can develop silently for years and if not treated, can be deadly.

Saving baby boomers

Baby boomers are 5 times more likely to have hepatitis C.

A one-time test

Health officials estimate that one-time testing of all baby boomers will prevent more than 120,000 hep C virus related deaths.

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a disease caused by a virus that infects the liver. In time, it can lead to permanent liver damage as well as cirrhosis (scarring), liver cancer, and liver failure.

The risk is serious:

- Hep C virus-related cirrhosis is the No. 1 cause of liver transplants.
- High mortality: In 2014, 19,659 deaths were caused by HCV.
- The deadliest infectious disease: HCV-related mortality in 2013 surpassed the total combined number of deaths from 60 other infectious diseases reported to CDC, including HIV, pneumoococcal disease, and tuberculosis.

A silent disease

Hep C can develop for years without symptoms. It’s possible to be infected for decades without knowing it.

No symptoms, OR symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Stomach pain
- Joint pain
- Jaundice
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dark urine

The good news

If you are infected, treatments are available that may be able to slow or stop the damage to your liver. Many people can even be cured – and the treatment is simple. Your doctor can provide more information.

You can’t cure what you don’t know

Hep C – know your status

There is an easy and convenient way to detect the hep C virus: a one-time blood test. It works like this:

- **Test negative** and you know you don’t have the virus.

- **Testing positive** means you have the hep C virus. If you are infected, therapies now available provide a virologic cure in most people.

- Talk to your doctor about what steps you can take.
- Ask your doctor about Hep C testing from Quest Diagnostics.

Visit our website for more information at KnowAboutHepC.com.