WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?
• Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV).
• HCV exposure can lead to chronic (lifelong) HCV infection that can progress to liver damage, including cirrhosis and liver cancer.
• There is no vaccine to prevent HCV infection.
• Having an HCV test is the only way to know if you have HCV infection.
• If you have HCV infection, you may not show symptoms for years, but can still pass the virus to others.

WHO SHOULD GET A HEPATITIS C TEST?
Talk with your health care provider about being tested for HCV infection if you:
• Were born between 1945 and 1965
• Are a current or former injection drug user or have ever shared needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject or snort drugs, even if it was many years ago
• Were treated for a blood clotting problem before 1987
• Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992
• Are on kidney dialysis treatment
• Are a Vietnam-era Veteran
• Have abnormal liver test results or liver disease

HOW CAN I BE TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?
• Your VA health care provider can order the HCV blood test for you.
• Results will be available in 1-2 weeks.

IS HEPATITIS C TREATMENT AVAILABLE AT VA?
• Yes, if you test positive for HCV infection, talk to your VA provider about treatment for HCV infection.

For more information: www.hepatitis.va.gov/patient

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