Hepatitis C is a liver disease that results from infection with the hepatitis C virus. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Most people with chronic (life long) hepatitis C do not have any symptoms until liver problems develop 20–30 years after exposure.

**GET THE FACTS**

**HEPATITIS C IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF LIVER CANCER**

- **4 MILLION**
  - About four million Americans have hepatitis C.
- **3 out of 4 people** living with hepatitis C don’t know they have it.
- **VETERANS 4%-17%**
  - Veterans are at greater risk of infection.
  - Between 4%-17% of Veterans are infected, compared with 2% in the non-Veteran population.
- **NON-VETERANS 2%**

**KNOW THE RISK**

**OUT OF 100 PEOPLE WITH HEPATITIS C:**

- **15** will clear the virus without treatment
- **85** will develop a chronic infection
- **OF THOSE WITH A CHRONIC INFECTION:**
  - About **20** will develop liver cirrhosis in their lifetime
  - About **3** will develop liver cancer

**GET TESTED**

A BLOOD TEST LETS YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C. GET TESTED IF YOU:

- Were born between 1945 and 1965
- Had tattoos or body piercings applied in non-regulated settings
- Ever used a needle to inject drugs
- Had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992
- Have HIV infection
- Have hemophilia and received clotting factor before 1987
- Were on long-term kidney dialysis
- Were born to a mother infected with HCV at the time