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

About four million Americans have hepatitis C.

3 out of 4 people living with hepatitis C don’t know they have it.

Veterans are at greater risk of infection.

Between 4% 17% of Veterans are infected, compared with 2% in the non-Veteran population.

- Visit www.hepatitis.gov or www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis for more information

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