



## SHOULD YOU BE TESTED FOR HEPATITIS B & HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer in the United States, and more than 15,000 Americans die each year from hepatitis B or C – more than those who die from AIDS. But with early detection and treatment, no one should ever die of hepatitis B or C.

Experts recommend that all baby boomers be tested for hepatitis C. So if you were born between 1945 and 1965, ask your doctor for a hepatitis C test. If you are infected, there are highly effective treatments to prevent the disease from permanently damaging your liver. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C, but many people can be cured.

Hepatitis B is a common infection in much of the world, and can be passed from mother to baby at birth. Persons who were born in Asia or the Pacific Islands, Northern Africa or Central-Eastern Europe, or **whose parents** were born in those regions should be tested for hepatitis B. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis B and there are good treatments to prevent liver damage for those who are infected. Even if you were vaccinated for hepatitis B, ask your doctor if you should be tested! The vaccine is not a cure for those already infected.

You can also do a five-minute private checklist online to see if you should get vaccinated or screened for hepatitis B or C. You can print the results out for your doctor: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/RiskAssessment/>

**Ask your doctor if you and your family should be tested for hepatitis B & C and vaccinated against hepatitis B.**

Resources:

California Hepatitis Alliance's online hepatitis services referral guide:  
<http://calhep.org/referralguide.asp>

California Department of Public Health viral hepatitis resource page:  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/ViralHepatitisResources.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/ViralHepatitisResources.aspx)

San Francisco Hep B Free:  
[www.sfhepbfree.org](http://www.sfhepbfree.org)  
Toll-free helpline: 888-311-3331

HCV Advocate  
<http://www.hcvadvocate.org>

HELP-4-HEP: National hepatitis C helpline  
[www.help4hep.org](http://www.help4hep.org)  
Toll-free: 877-435-7443