The hepatitis C virus is a leading cause of liver disease, liver cancer, and liver transplants, placing a huge burden on patients, their families, caregivers, and the healthcare system.

**The Growing Problem of Hepatitis C in the U.S.**

- >150% increase in new cases in recent years
- 3.5 MILLION people are living with hepatitis C
- 59 years is the average age people are dying

More persons die from hepatitis C than all of the 60 other reported infectious disease combined. According to available data, at least 20,000 deaths occur each year - which is believed to be an underestimate of the actual number.

**Hepatitis C Virus is Very Infectious**

- Hepatitis C virus spreads when blood from an infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected.
- Hepatitis C is 10 times more infectious than HIV.
- At least 50% of persons living with hepatitis C do not know they are infected.

**Testing is Key**

- A blood test is the only way to know if a person has been infected.

**Testing for the hepatitis C virus is recommended for certain individuals, including those who:**

- Were born from 1945 - 1965.
- Have ever injected drugs, even if just once.
- Are children born to hepatitis C infected mothers.
- Are infected with HIV.

**Testing, Care, and Treatment Saves Lives**

- There is no vaccine for the hepatitis C virus.
- Lifesaving care can prevent serious complications from the hepatitis C virus.
- 320,000 deaths can be prevented by testing and referring infected persons to care and treatment.
- New treatments can cure hepatitis C and are cost effective.

For more information about hepatitis C Please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/