



The Urgency of Hepatitis C Screening for Baby Boomers

July 22, 2015 By [NVHR](#)

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is pleased to announce the release of a new fact sheet on the urgency of hepatitis C screening for baby boomers.

The majority of people living with and dying from hepatitis C are baby boomers, yet most of them remain undiagnosed and unaware of their infection. Because many baby boomers have lived with hepatitis C for 20 to 40 years, liver-related complications, including liver cancer, liver failure and liver-related deaths are expected to peak in the next decade.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree: everyone born during 1945 - 1965 should be tested once for hepatitis C. The health care system and federal, state, and local governments have a responsibility to ensure that these recommendations are implemented.

The best way to reduce the likelihood that someone will develop severe complications of hepatitis C is to cure the infection.

Please download our one page and two page fact sheets from our [website](#) outlining the urgency of action now to screen, identify, treat, and cure people living with hepatitis C.

Recommendations for expanding hepatitis C testing among Baby Boomers and resources that NVHR's program provides:

- Â· Health care systems should integrate hepatitis C testing into their Electronic Health Records. A baby boomer prompt is fast and easy for doctors and can be as simple as adding one additional test on a lab slip, and then the prompt goes away.
- Â· **NVHR resource:** [EHR prompts](#)
- Â· Private insurers should encourage medical providers in their health plans to test baby boomer patients for hepatitis C.
- Â· **NVHR resource:** [Coverage and coding and billing](#)
- Â· The federal government should educate medical providers, particularly those serving Medicare beneficiaries, about the USPSTF and CDC recommendations that everyone born from

1945-1965 receive a one-time hepatitis C test.

Â· **NVHR resource:** [Provider training](#)

Questions or comments?

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