

# Viral Hepatitis Updates from CDC

## May is Hepatitis Awareness Month

### Vital Signs – Hepatitis C

Today, and in conjunction with Hepatitis Awareness Month, CDC released a new study in Vital Signs on hepatitis C testing and reporting. The report data, pulled from eight hepatitis C surveillance sites across the country, show that only half (51 percent) of those identified with an initial positive hepatitis C antibody test are receiving appropriate follow-up testing to determine if they are still infected. Without a follow-up test, a person will not know if they are currently infected with the hepatitis C virus.

The results also further underscore the severe impact of hepatitis C among baby boomers (born from 1945 through 1965). Baby boomers accounted for 67 percent of all reported hepatitis C cases and 72 percent of all reported deaths among people with hepatitis C.

- ***MMWR: Vital Signs: Evaluation of Hepatitis C Virus Infection Testing and Reporting - Eight U.S. Sites, 2005–2011***

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm62e0507a1.htm>

- ***MMWR: Fact sheet: Hepatitis C: Testing Baby Boomers Saves Lives***

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/hepatitisc/>

### ***MMWR: Testing for HCV infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians.***

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm62e0507a2.htm>

- Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection  
[http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/hcv\\_flow.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/hcv_flow.pdf)
- Interpretation of Results of Tests for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and Further Actions  
[http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/hcv\\_graph.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/hcv_graph.pdf)