



June 8, 2012

Docket No. CDC-2012-0005: Recommendations for the Identification of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Chronic Infection

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft guidelines for the identification of persons born between 1945 and 1965 who have contracted the hepatitis C virus infection.

The undersigned organizations join the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable in strongly supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s draft guidelines recommending a one-time hepatitis C test for everyone born from 1945 to 1965 (the baby boomer generation). One in thirty people in this generation has been infected with hepatitis C and the overwhelming majority don't know it. Left untreated, hepatitis C causes serious liver diseases, including liver cancer, the fastest rising cause of cancer-related deaths, and is the leading cause of liver transplants in the United States.

More than two million baby boomers in the United States are infected with hepatitis C, accounting for more than 75 percent of all American adults living with the virus. Baby boomers are five times more likely to be infected than other adults. However, most do not know they have the virus because hepatitis C can damage the liver for many years with few symptoms. As a result, more than 15,000 Americans, most of them baby boomers, die each year from hepatitis C-related illness. Deaths from hepatitis C are projected to grow significantly in coming years. This is unacceptable given newly available therapies that can cure up to 75 percent of infections.

The CDC estimates that one-time hepatitis C testing of baby boomer could identify more than 800,000 additional people with the virus, prevent expensive health care costs related to liver cancer and other chronic liver diseases, and, most importantly, save more than 120,000 lives.

These draft guidelines are crucial next step in the United States' fight against the viral hepatitis epidemic. We urge the federal government to finalize the guidelines quickly so that we can begin the vital work of implementing them and educating medical providers and those in the baby boomer generation. Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake.

Association of Chinese American Physicians Mid Atlantic Chapter
Rockville, MD

AIDS Action Baltimore and the Maryland Hepatitis Coalition
Baltimore, MD

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
Boston, MA

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
New York, NY

The AIDS Institute
Washington, DC

The AIDS Institute
Tampa, FL

AIDS United
Washington, DC

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
Alexandria, VA

American Liver Foundation
New York, NY

American Social Health Association
Research Triangle Park, NC

Asian Liver Center at Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA

Asian Pacific Liver Center
St. Vincent Medical Center
Palo Alto, CA

Aspirations
Baton Rouge, LA

Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center #104 & 105
Lancaster, CA

Berkeley Free Clinic
Berkeley, CA

California Hepatitis Alliance
San Francisco, CA

California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses
Oxnard, CA

Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Oregon City, OR

CHOW Project
Honolulu, HI.

Community Access National Network
Washington, DC

Gaudenzia, Inc
Harrisburg, PA

Georgia AIDS Coalition
Snellville, GA

Harm Reduction Coalition
New York, NY

Help & Education for Liver Patients (HELP!)
Santa Cruz, CA

The Hemophilia Federation of America
Washington, DC

Hep Free Hawaii
Honolulu, HI

HCV Support
Brewster , MA

HCV Support
Dennisport, MA

H.E.A.L.S of the South
Tallahassee, FL

HealthHIV
Washington, DC

HealthPro Solutions
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Hepatitis B Foundation
Doylestown, MD

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C. (HBI-DC)
Washington, D.C.

Hep C Connection
Denver, CO

Hep Help of New Jersey Alliance
Lanoka Harbor, NJ

The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc.
New York, NY

Hepatitis Education Project
Seattle, WA

Hepatitis Foundation International
Silver Spring, MD

hepCmeditations project
San Francisco, CA

HIV Dental Alliance
Atlanta GA

Hope for Hepatitis C Foundation
Frederick, MD

Immunization Action Coalition
St. Paul, MN

John Brooks Recovery Center
Atlantic City, NJ

JRI Health @ Justice Resource Institute
Framingham, MA

K.I.Services, Inc
Alexandria, VA

Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Seattle, WA

LiverHope
Minnetonka, MN

Local Area Support For Hepatitis (LASH)
Redding CA

MoHCA
Columbia, Mo

National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
New York, NY

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors - NASTAD
Washington, DC

National Association of County and City Health Officials
Washington, DC

National Minority AIDS Council
Washington, DC

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC)
Denver, CO

National Task Force on Hepatitis B
San Francisco, CA

The NYU Medical Center/Langone Hepatitis C Support Group
New York, NY

North Shore Health Project
Gloucester, MA

Northeast Behavioral Health
Peabody, MA

Project Inform
San Francisco, CA

Recovery 2000, Inc.
Chicago, IL

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force
San Francisco, CA

San Luis Obispo Co. AIDS Support Network
San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Hep C Project
San Luis Obispo, CA

Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
Santa Barbara, CA

Stanley Street Treatment and Resources
Fall River, MA

Status C Unknown
Medford, NY

STOPHepC, Inc.
Pelzer, SC

S.T.O.P. Hepatitis Task-Force
Sacramento, CA

Tapestry Health
Florence, MA

Treatment Action Group
New York, NY

Tri-City Health Center
Fremont, CA

Trust for America's Health
Washington, DC

UAB, School of Public Health/NTC for Integrated Hepatitis HIV/STD Prevention Services
Birmingham, AL

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
Davis, CA