

## GETTING TESTED AND TREATED

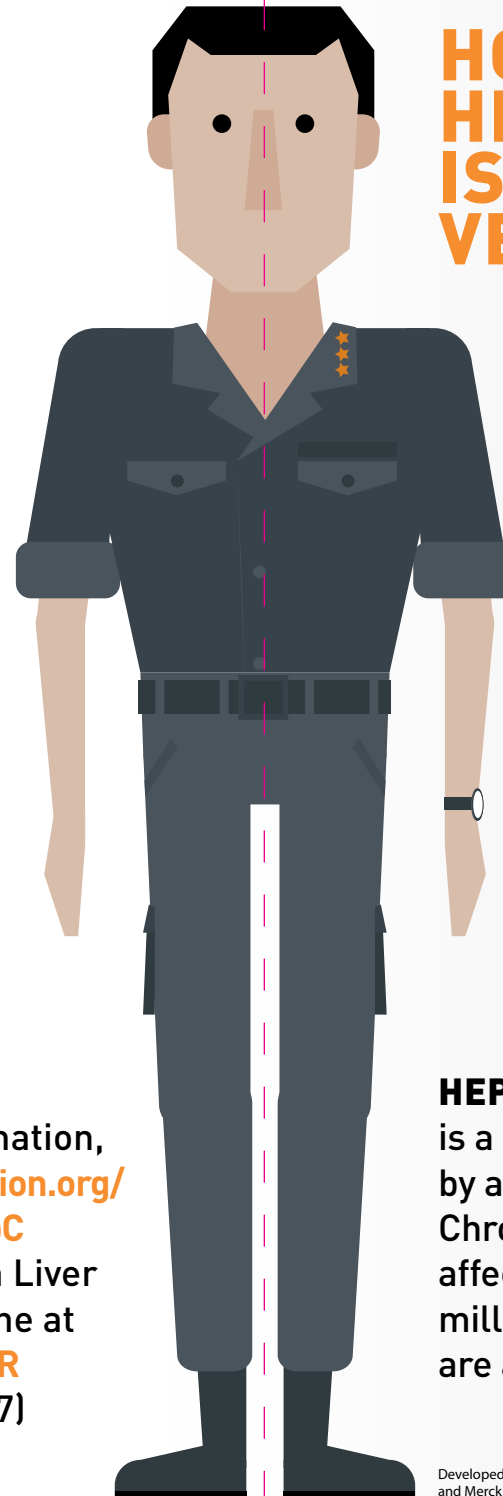
- » Anyone with a risk factor for hepatitis C should get tested
- » The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all baby boomers, i.e. anyone born between 1945 and 1965, should get tested
- » A healthcare provider can perform a simple blood test that delivers results in as little as 20 minutes
- » Early diagnosis and treatment may help reduce the risk of serious liver damage



**CONSULT** with a healthcare professional to learn more about personal risk factors, screening, and treatment options for chronic hepatitis C.



## HOW HEPATITIS C IS IMPACTING VETERANS



For additional information, visit [www.liverfoundation.org/VeteransandHepC](http://www.liverfoundation.org/VeteransandHepC) or call the American Liver Foundation HelpLine at **1-800-GO-LIVER** (1-800-465-4837)

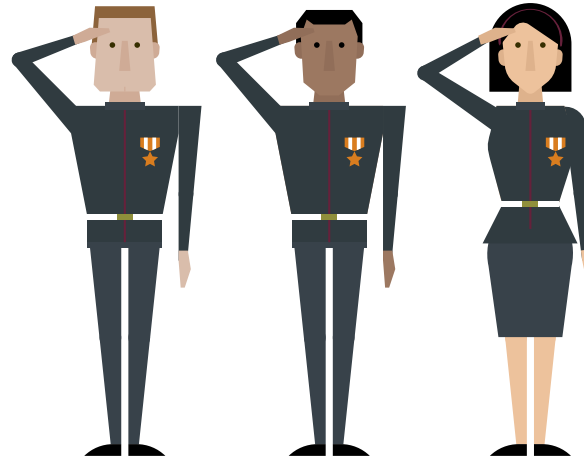
### HEPATITIS C

is a serious disease caused by a virus that infects the liver. Chronic hepatitis C infection affects approximately 3.5 million Americans. Veterans are at increased risk.



## HEPATITIS C...

- » is the **MOST COMMON BLOOD-BORNE INFECTION** in the United States, spreading through any contact with infected blood
- » **CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS LIVER PROBLEMS**, including liver failure and liver cancer
- » **OFTEN HAS NO SYMPTOMS**, but when they do occur, may include: fever, feeling tired, lack of appetite, upset stomach, jaundice and joint pain
- » **CAN BE CURED** in most patients, meaning that the virus can't be detected in the blood 3 months after completing treatment



## VETERANS...

- » are **3X MORE LIKELY** to be infected with hepatitis C vs. the general population
  - ◇ most veterans with chronic hepatitis C were likely infected during the Vietnam War era
- » need education, screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care
  - ◇ despite their increased risk, many veterans remain undiagnosed



## OTHER RISK FACTORS

IN ADDITION TO VETERAN STATUS, OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR HEPATITIS C INCLUDE:

- » being born between 1945-1965
- » receiving a transfusion with blood or blood products before 1992
- » having body piercings or tattoos
- » current or past use of injection drugs
- » being infected with HIV