Hepatitis C is a viral infection that can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and even death. Protect yourself - know the facts about hepatitis C.
Hepatitis C Basics

What is hepatitis C?
Hepatitis C is a viral infection that can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and even death.

How can hepatitis C spread?
• Through contact with blood of an infected person (can occur if sharing needles or from unsterilized tattoo/body piercing tools)
• Through sex with an infected partner (this is less common)

How do people know if they have hepatitis C?
A simple blood test is used to test for hepatitis C. People who are at risk and should get tested include:
• All baby boomers born 1945-1965
• Sexual partners of people with hepatitis C
• Anyone who has ever had contact with another person's blood such as through injecting drugs or an accidental needle stick

How can you help prevent hepatitis C?
• Get tested if you are at risk
• Never share drug supplies (needles, syringes, etc)
• Practice safe sex

What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?
Some people will have symptoms when they first become infected that can include:
• Jaundice (yellow eyes and skin)
• Abdominal pain
• Fatigue (feeling tired)
Most people with hepatitis C will have no symptoms.

What is the treatment for hepatitis C?
Several new medications are available to cure hepatitis C infection. The first step to getting treatment is to see a doctor who specializes in gastroenterology or infectious diseases.

For more information, call 614-645-1474 (option 2) or visit columbus.gov/hepatitis.