

## HEPATITIS C TESTING PROTOCOL

Chronic hepatitis C infection affects more than 170 million worldwide, and is the leading cause of end-stage liver disease. Acute hepatitis C could lead to chronic infection that causes liver issues and even cirrhosis.

The CDC recommends:

- Universal hepatitis C screening for all adults age 18 and older at least once in their lives and all pregnant women during each pregnancy, except in settings where the prevalence of HCV infection is less than 0.1%.
- One-time hepatitis C testing regardless of age or setting prevalence among people with recognized conditions or exposures:
  - People with HIV;
  - People who have ever injected drugs and shared needles, syringes or other drug preparation equipment, including those who injected only once or a few times many years ago;
  - People with certain medical conditions, including:
    - People who ever received maintenance hemodialysis;
    - People with persistently abnormal ALT levels.