

U.S. Task Force Declines to Press for Widespread Baby Boomer Hep C Screens

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The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has refrained from recommending that all baby boomers undergo screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV), putting the task force at odds with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), not to mention a legion of outraged hep C advocates, according to CQ HealthBeat.

An advisory governmental panel, the task force gave what's known as a "B" grade draft recommendation that those at high risk of contracting hep C, including anyone with a history of injection drug use or who received a blood transfusion before 1992, should be screened for the virus. The B grade means the screening will be free under the Affordable Care Act for those who fall into these risk categories.

The task force gave a "C" grade draft recommendation for testing Americans born between 1945 and 1965, stating that health care providers "may consider" testing baby boomers. Members of this generation make up [75 percent](#) of all hepatitis C cases in the United States. The "C" grade for the baby boomer risk group means the task force sees a modest net benefit to widespread screening. Also, the test will not be free for boomers without a history of injection drug use or transfusions that date back more than 20 years.

In August, the CDC [recommended](#) that all boomers get screened for hep C.

To read the Task Force recommendation statement, [click here](#).

To read the CDC recommendation statement, [click here](#).

To read the CQ story, [click here](#) (subscription required).
