

**Four in Five General Practitioners (83%) Agree That Patients  
Would Benefit From More Routine Hepatitis C Screening  
While Most Canadians (90%) Know that Someone Can Have Hepatitis C  
and Not Know It, Only One in Four (23%) Have Been Tested**

**Public Release Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 9:00 AM EST**



**Ipsos Reid**

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## **Four in Five General Practitioners (83%) Agree That Patients Would Benefit From More Routine Hepatitis C Screening**

*Majority of Canadians Incorrectly Believe HIV is More Prevalent than Hep C;  
Six in Ten GPs Admit they Don't Screen Enough Patients for Hep C*

**Toronto, ON** – A strong majority of general practitioners (GPs) in Canada believe that more routine hepatitis C screening would be beneficial to patients, according to a recent study conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Canadian Liver Foundation. Four in five (83%) general practitioners 'agree' (23% strongly/61% somewhat) that their patients 'would benefit from more routine screening of hepatitis C', while only one in five (17%) 'disagree' (2% strongly/14% somewhat).

While almost all GPs (96%) believe that many Canadians who have hepatitis C are not aware that they have it, six in ten (61%) admit that they 'do not screen enough patients for hepatitis C'. In terms of patient receptivity of getting screened, on average, nearly all GPs (95%) indicate that their patients accept being screened when it is suggested.

*GPs admit having a limited understanding of the disease and treatment*

The survey also shows that GPs have a limited understanding of hepatitis C. Only about a third (35%) of those surveyed say they know 'a lot' about the symptoms, while nearly four in ten (38%) feel they know 'nothing at all' or 'not much' about available treatments. Moreover, over half (57%) are unaware that hepatitis C can be cured.

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When asked about barriers that prevent them from screening and/or treating more patients for hepatitis C, three in ten (29%) indicate that they have a lack of comfort and knowledge about testing for hepatitis C.

### *Low levels of screening for hepatitis C*

Even though high proportions of Canadians (90%) correctly indicate that ‘someone can have hepatitis C and not know it’, only one in four (23%) say they have been tested for hepatitis C at some point in their life, which is lower than screening levels for HIV/AIDS (32%). In particular, Baby Boomers (17%) are less likely than Generation Y (26%) and Generation X respondents (34%) to have been tested. When asked if they know anyone with hepatitis C, the majority of Canadians (73%) indicate that they do not.

### *Public knowledge of hepatitis C is limited*

Just over half of Canadians (55%) believe (incorrectly) that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is the same as (40%) or higher (15%) than that of hepatitis C.

Nearly half (47%) of Canadians feel they know a lot or some about hepatitis C. In particular, Baby Boomers are most likely (53%) to say they know a lot/some about the disease compared to Generation Y (44%) and Generation X (45%) respondents, when in fact they know the least. When asked a number of questions about the disease, including the prevalence of hepatitis C compared to HIV/AIDS, how the disease is primarily transmitted, whether or not it can be cured, and a series of true/false statements, Boomers score the lowest compared to their younger counterparts (see table below).

HEPATITIS C SCORECARD			
	Gen Y (18-29)	Gen X (30-46)	Baby Boomers (47-67)
% That know whether hepatitis C is more prevalent than HIV/ AIDS	44%	54%	41%
% That know hepatitis C is primarily transmitted through blood to blood contact	62%	60%	54%
% That know hepatitis C can be cured	23%	14%	18%
Average score of hepatitis C fact testing exercise (True or False)	66%	66%	64%
<b>Average</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>44%</b>

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*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid survey conducted between August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on behalf of the Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF). For this survey, a sample of 1,000 Canadian adults, aged 18+, and 300 general/family practitioners from Ipsos' Canadian online panel were interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of each target audience according to Census data, and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the survey is accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points had all Canadians adults been surveyed and  $\pm 6.5$  percentage points had all general/family practitioners in Canada been surveyed. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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**For more information on this news release, please contact:**

***Sean Simpson  
Associate Vice President  
Ipsos Reid  
Public Affairs  
(416) 572-4474***

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