

# EASY C FACTS

## Latinos

Hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) affects some groups of people differently than others. These differences are in the number of people infected with hepatitis C, how quickly or slowly HCV damages the liver and how well current HCV medicines work:

- ◆ **More Latinos are infected with hepatitis C** than non-Latino whites – about twice as many Latinos have hepatitis C compared to non-Latino whites.
- ◆ It is also believed that **hepatitis C will advance more quickly** in Latinos as a group than in other populations who have hepatitis C.
- ◆ Another area is treatment – **Latinos do not respond as well to current HCV treatment** than non-Latino whites.

The reasons for the lower treatment responses and faster disease progression are not really understood, but some experts believe that it may be caused by certain factors such as

language barriers, not being able to get medical care, lack of patient education and also because Latinos are more prone to being overweight and having fatty liver.

### *Remember to talk with your doctor or nurse.....*

- ◆ *About ways to stay healthy – including eating a healthy diet that includes a lot of fruit, vegetables, and lean meat.*
- ◆ *An exercise program that is right for you.*

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