Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
Review new hepatitis C screening and treatment recommendations for baby boomers.	In its 2010 report, Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C, the IOM identified viral hepatitis as an underappreciated health concern for the nation and deemed it the silent epidemic. In response to the IOM report, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created an action plan in 2011 entitled, Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis. In August 2012, the CDC augmented the screening recommendations to include a one-time HCV testing of those individuals born between 1945 and 1965. The prevalence of HCV infection among these individuals is five times higher than other birth cohorts (CDC, 2012).
Describe Mishel's Uncertainty in Illness Theory and the antecedents surrounding individual's perception of uncertainty.	Merle H. Mishel pioneered the conceptualization of uncertainty in nursing. Mishel (1988) defined uncertainty as the cognitive state created when the person cannot adequately structure or categorize an event because of a lack of sufficient cues. Uncertainty occurs when the decision maker is unable to assign definite values to objects and events or is unable to accurately predict outcomes (Mishel, 1984). These incongruences or unbalanced realities cause alterations in the normal psychological state of the individual causing stress. Mishel's Uncertainty in Illness Theory provides a substantive theory in which to frame a study on the uncertainties faced by those individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C.
Analyze the predictive ability the antecedents of Mishel's theory had on baby boomers perception of illness uncertainty.	The linear combination of the predictors revealed a significant regression model, $F_{(5,115)} = 27.091$, $p < .001$, with a R^2 value of 0.54. Two of five predictors, credible authority ($\beta = .625$) and social support ($\beta = -.169$), were significant predictors of perceived level of uncertainty.
Recommend proven methods to decrease uncertainty in baby boomers diagnosed with hepatitis C.	By providing anticipatory guidance, healthcare providers are seen as credible sources of information and have the greatest influence on the individual's perception of uncertainty ($\beta = .625$). Social support shared an inverse relationship with uncertainty ($\beta = -.169$). Therefore, as social support increases, perceived levels of uncertainty decrease.