Recent Developments in the Story of Hepatitis

**The Disease**

- A hepatitis (HBV) outbreak linked to tattoo parlors causes New York City to ban these establishments; prohibition is in effect until 1997

- The American Liver Foundation is founded by the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease

- According to the U.S. CDC, 200,000–300,000 persons become infected with HBV each year in the U.S.

- Estimated total number of new HBV cases peaks at 287,000

- Estimated total number of new HCV cases peaks at 291,000

- Singer Naomi Judd is infected with HCV; founds the Naomi Judd Education and Research Fund to raise awareness about HCV

- Hepatitis B Foundation is established

- First hepatitis (HAV) outbreak linked to green onions kills three and sickens at least 575 people; other hepatitis outbreaks in Georgia and Tennessee sicken over 100 people

- Actress Pamela Anderson announces she has HCV

- An estimated 40 million infants and children and 30 million adults in the U.S. have received the HBV vaccine

- U.S. CDC estimates that less than 80,000 people are infected with hepatitis B

- Asian Liver Foundation launches the Jade Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness about HBV and liver cancer in Asian/Pacific Islander communities

- Newsweek publishes photos of AIDS activist Larry Kramer, who has hepatitis B; Kramer receives transplant after seven months on the transplant waiting list

- U.S. CDC announces that deaths from HCV are expected to triple over the next 10 years

- U.S. CDC estimates 51,000 new HCV infections occurred in 2005

- Survey results in New York City reveal that 21% of the Asian-American population tested positive for HBV infection

- First World Hepatitis Awareness Day held on October 1

- More than 40 investigational HBV and HCV treatments in development

- U.S. FDA approves peginterferon alfa-2a

- World Health Organization and ACIP recommend all children receive HBV vaccine

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves adefovir, the first effective HCV treatment

- U.S. FDA approves telbivudine

- U.S. FDA approves lamivudine

- The first HAV vaccine becomes available for general use

- First drug to treat HBV, interferon alfa-2b, approved in the U.S.

- Effective HCV screening of the blood supply begins

- First World Hepatitis Awareness Day held on October 1

- U.S. FDA approves combined HAV/HBV vaccine for use in people over the age of 18 years

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) publishes the first official recommendations on the use of HBV vaccine

- U.S. FDA approves recombinant HBV vaccine

- ACIP recommends that all pregnant women be tested for HBV

- HCV virus isolated

- ACIP recommends that all infants born to HBV-positive mothers receive the HBV vaccine and HBV globulins; ACIP also recommends that all pregnant women in high-risk groups be tested for HBV

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) publishes the first official recommendations on the use of HBV vaccine

- A serum-derived HBV vaccine is made available for general use

- Hepatitis A outbreak in Pennsylvania caused by green onions sickens five

- U.S. laws are passed requiring donated blood to be screened for HBV

- Blumberg and colleagues isolate the hepatitis B virus

- Maurice Hilleman and colleagues at Merck begin researching and testing an HBV vaccine made from parts of the virus

- Wolf Sumann and colleagues at Merck show that the vaccine provided more than 90 percent protection against HBV

- U.S. FDA approves adefovir

- Blumberg and Harry Alter discover HBsAg, a serological marker for HBV infection

- HBeAg, a serological marker for hepatitis A (HAV), is discovered and HAV virus is isolated

- Mario Rizzetto and John Gerin discover the hepatitis D virus

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- U.S. FDA approves telbivudine

- U.S. FDA approves entecavir

- U.S. FDA approves Peginterferon alfa-2a

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