



ATLANTIC GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.A.
Hepatitis Treatment Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Atlantic Gastroenterology Associates' Hepatitis Treatment Center Provides
Skilled, Compassionate Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis**

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. - Atlantic Gastroenterology Associates (AGA) Hepatitis Treatment Center provides chronic Hepatitis B and C patients with excellence in patient care through its experienced, compassionate medical team and their commitment to ongoing research into improved treatments.

“Hepatitis” means inflammation of the liver. Hep C is almost always chronic and is spread from person to person only by direct contact with an infected person's blood. Hep B and Hep C can lead to chronic liver disease (cirrhosis) and liver cancer. These are the leading reasons for liver transplant in the United States.

While hepatic B is treatable with a vaccine, Hepatitis C is not. An estimated four million people in the United States are infected with Hepatitis C. Approximately 70 percent of people who are infected with Hepatitis C do not even know they have the disease because they have no symptoms that lead to diagnosis. In fact, when symptoms do appear, it's not uncommon for the disease to be in an advanced stage.

The Hepatitis Treatment Center through its participation with AGA Clinical Research Associates is currently participating in five clinical trials studying treatments for Hepatitis C. Physicians at AGA have been in the forefront of research for chronic Hepatitis C for many years. In the past three years trials were completed for two recently approved drugs, boceprevir (Victrelis) and telaprevir (Incivek).

According to Dr. John Santoro, physician and researcher at the Hepatitis Treatment Center, these drugs have produced exciting cure rates in patients who participated in the clinical trials.

“We've been treating patients with the next round of drugs and have had a great deal of success with some who have tested negative and have been cured of the virus for over a year.

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ABOUT:

Since opening its doors in 1979, AGA has become one of the largest and most sophisticated gastrointestinal treatment centers in the South Jersey area. With integrity and patient care as their primary goal, AGA board certified gastroenterologists, nurse practitioners, and staff treat over 5,000 patients each year.