

## **ASK A DOCTOR**

**Question:** I keep hearing about the Hepatitis B vaccine. What is hepatitis B and do I need the vaccine?

**Answer:** Hepatitis B is a serious infection caused by the hepatitis B virus and can affect anyone. It can be prevented by vaccination. It affects over 200,000 people in the United States every year. More than 11,000 people are hospitalized annually because of hepatitis B. One out of 20 people will get hepatitis.

Symptoms of hepatitis B can include fever, right upper quadrant pain and chalky looking