



Hepatitis C Virus Screening, Testing, and Diagnosis in Adults

January 2023

Table 2: Interpretation of HCV Test Results [a]			
Anti-HCV	HCV RNA	Interpretation	Response
Positive	Detected	Acute or chronic HCV infection	Evaluate for treatment.
Positive	Not detected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of HCV by spontaneous or treatment-related clearance, <i>or</i> HCV infection during period of intermittent viremia, <i>or</i> False-positive antibody screening result 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform HCV RNA testing based on risk factors. Repeat HCV RNA testing if acute exposure is known or suspected.
Negative	Detected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early acute HCV infection, <i>or</i> Chronic HCV infection in immunosuppressed patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate for treatment if patient has risk factors. Repeat testing if patient has no risk factors or exposure and a false-positive result is suspected.
Negative	Unknown	Presumed absence of HCV infection if the HCV RNA testing was not performed or the status is unknown	Perform HCV antibody testing based on risk factors.

Abbreviation: HCV, hepatitis C virus.

Note:

a. Adapted from [CDC 2013]. For more information about interpreting HCV test results, see the [Association of Public Health Laboratories Interpretation of Hepatitis C Virus Test Results: Guidance for Laboratories](#).

Reference

CDC. Testing for HCV infection: an update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2013;62(18):362-65. [PMID: 23657112] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23657112>