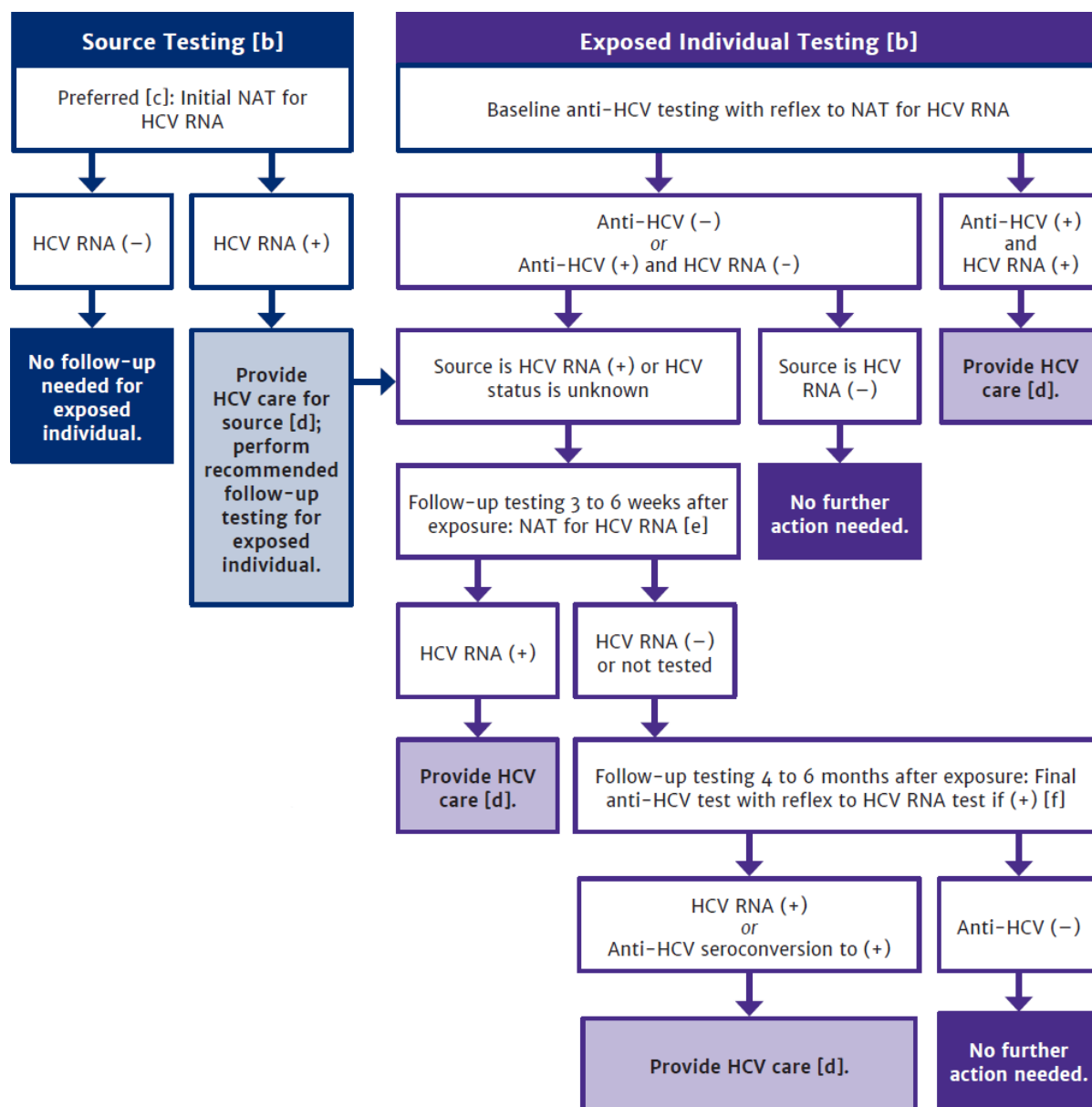


**Figure 5: Recommended Testing After Potential Exposure to Hepatitis C Virus [a]**



**Abbreviations:** anti-HCV, HCV antibody; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; NAT, nucleic acid test.

**Notes:**

- Adapted from Figures 1 and 2 of [CDC Testing and Clinical Management of Health Care Personnel Potentially Exposed to Hepatitis C Virus — CDC Guidance, United States, 2020](#).
- Testing should be performed as soon as possible (preferably within 48 hours) after exposure; exposed individual and source patient testing may be performed simultaneously.
- For alternative testing option, see [CDC Figure 1](#).
- Individuals with detectable HCV RNA at any point should be provided the recommended [evaluation](#) and [treatment](#) for acute or chronic HCV infection.
- Follow-up testing of the exposed individual is recommended if the source patient is HCV RNA positive, anti-HCV positive with unknown HCV RNA status, or cannot be tested. HCV RNA testing performed 6 weeks after exposure has the advantage of coinciding with HIV post-exposure testing schedules if HIV surveillance is recommended.
- If the HCV RNA test result is negative 3 to 6 weeks after exposure, a final test for anti-HCV at 4 to 6 months after exposure is recommended because of the possibility of intermittent periods of aviremia in acute HCV infection. If the exposed individual was anti-HCV positive and HCV RNA negative at baseline, testing at this time should be conducted for HCV RNA detection, as individuals successfully treated for HCV infection will remain anti-HCV positive and HCV RNA negative unless reinfectd. Testing performed 6 months after exposure has the advantage of coinciding with HBV post-exposure testing schedules if HBV testing is recommended. For immunocompromised individuals with negative anti-HCV result, testing for HCV RNA can be considered. Exposed individuals who develop viral syndromes suggestive of acute HCV infection at any point should be retested for HCV RNA.