Abacavir Hypersensitivity Testing and Initial Patient Management Algorithm

Before initiating or reinitiating abacavir therapy, screen patients for HLA-B*57:01 allele to decrease the risk of hypersensitivity reaction.

Order HLA57 / HLA-B 5701 Genotype, Abacavir Hypersensitivity, Blood

- **POSITIVE**
  - Do not initiate abacavir therapy

- **NEGATIVE**
  - Initiate abacavir therapy

Monitor patient every 2 weeks for the first 6 weeks of treatment for symptoms of hypersensitivity reaction that may include:
  - Fever
  - Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea
  - Malaise/fatigue
  - Headache
  - Myalgia/arthralgia
  - Skin rash
  - Shortness of breath, cough, pharyngitis

Patient has ≥2 symptoms within 6 weeks of starting abacavir:
- Stop abacavir therapy and provide supportive therapy as needed

Patient has ≤1 symptom within 6 weeks of starting abacavir:
- Continue abacavir and monitor progress

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1. Do not initiate abacavir therapy unless the potential benefits outweigh the risks of giving it.