Hepatitis C: Testing Algorithm for Screening and Diagnosis

**Positive**

HCVQN / Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA Detection and Quantification by Real-Time Reverse Transcription-PCR (RT-PCR), Serum

**Negative**

HCVDX / Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex to HCV RNA by PCR, Serum

Reactive antibody result automatically reflexes to PCR assay

- Clear serum specimen
- Hemolyzed or cadaveric serum specimen
- Type of Patient
  - Acute hepatitis
  - Immunocompromised

**Optional:**

HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum

Repeat HCVQN in 1 to 2 months if abnormal liver enzyme levels persist without alternative diagnosis

**Past/resolved HCV infection**

False-reactive HCV antibody result

**Negative**

Any viral load

- Active HCV infection
- Go to HCV Treatment Algorithm

**Diagnostic testing:** Patient with abnormal liver enzymes with or without symptoms

**Type of Patient**

- Recipient of blood or blood products prior to 1992
- Injection drug user
- All persons born from 1945 through 1965

**Screening in the following patient type:**

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**HCCAD / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Screen for Cadaveric or Hemolyzed Specimens, Serum**

**HCCDD / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody in Cadaveric or Hemolyzed Specimens, Serum**

No evidence of prior exposure to HCV

- Active or past/resolved HCV infection
- False-reactive HCV antibody screen result

Submit a nonhemolyzed (ie clear) serum specimen for HCVQN / HCV RNA Detection and Quantification by Real-Time Reverse Transcription-PCR (RT-PCR), Serum to distinguish between active and past/resolved HCV infection