Hepatitis C: Testing Algorithm for Screening and Diagnosis

**Clear serum specimen**

- Screening in the following patient type:
  - Recipient of blood or blood products prior to 1992
  - Injection drug user
  - All persons born from 1945 through 1965*

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

- **HCSVN / Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA Detection and Quantification by Real-Time Reverse Transcription-PCR (RT-PCR), Serum**
  - Reactive antibody screen automatically reflexes to PCR assay
  - **Antibody result**
    - **REACTIVE**
      - Automatic reflex to: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA Detection and Quantification by Real Time Reverse Transcription-PCR (RT-PCR), Serum
      - Request HCSVN in 1 to 2 months if abnormal liver enzyme levels persist without alternative diagnosis
    - **NEGATIVE**
      - Optional: HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum
      - Active HCV infection follow-up and treatment decisions depend on patient risk group

**Type of Patient**
- Acute hepatitis
- Immunocompromised

**Any viral load**

- Repeat HCSVN in 1 to 2 months if abnormal liver enzyme levels persist without alternative diagnosis
- **Past/resolved HCV infection**
- False-reactive HCV antibody result

**Negative**

- No evidence of prior exposure to HCV
- **Submit a nonhemolyzed (ie clear) serum specimen for HCSVN / Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA Detection and Quantification by Real-Time Reverse Transcription-PCR (RT-PCR), Serum** to distinguish between active and past/resolved HCV infection

**Hemolyzed or cadaveric serum specimen**

- Screening in the following patient type:
  - Recipient of blood or blood products prior to 1992
  - Injection drug user
  - All persons born from 1945 through 1965*

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

- **HCVDX / Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex to HCV RNA by PCR, Serum**
  - Reactive antibody result automatically reflexes to PCR assay
  - **Antibody result**
    - **REACTIVE**
      - Automatic reflex to: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Antibody Screen for Cadaveric or Hemolyzed Specimens, Serum
      - **POSITIVE**
        - Active or past/resolved HCV infection
      - **NEGATIVE**
        - False-reactive HCV antibody screen result
  - **NEGATIVE**
    - No evidence of prior exposure to HCV