Hepatitis C PCR

Test Description	Qualitative nucleic acid amplification assay for Hepatitis C viral nucleic acid (RNA) in human serum or plasma.
Test Use	To aid in the diagnosis of hepatitis C infection following a repeatedly reactive HCV antibody ELISA screening test result.
Test Department	Virology Phone (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)
Availability	Test is performed on request.
Specimen Requirements	1.5 mL serum (preferred) or plasma derived from sodium heparin, sodium citrate, K_2EDTA, or ACD anticoagulants
Collection kit/container	Category B shipping box with cold pack To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture technique Requires prior notification to the Virology laboratory
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8° C. Specimen must be received by the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Transport with an ice pack coolant.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Hemolyzed or heat treated specimens Specimens received more than 48 hours after collection
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (in the **Test, Agent, or Disease Not Listed (specify):** box, write **Hepatitis C PCR**)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	• Although RNA representing all recognized hepatitis C viral genotypes (1-6) can be detected with this assay, sensitivity and other performance characteristics have not been determined for all HCV genotypes. • Due to specimen stability limitations, testing cannot be reflexed from the specimen used for Hepatitis C ELISA. Re-collection is required.
Additional Comments	• Contact the Virology Laboratory prior to specimen submission. • Detection of hepatitis C viral RNA is evidence of active HCV infection but does not differentiate between acute and chronic states of infection.

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