

Hepatitis C Testing

Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of antibody to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) in human serum or plasma.
Test Use	As a screening assay to aid in the diagnosis of recent and/or past infection with hepatitis C virus (HCV).
Test Department	Virology Phone (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
Availability	Test is performed twice each week
Specimen Requirements	1 mL serum (preferred) or plasma derived from EDTA, lithium heparin, CPD, CP2D, CPDA-1, ACD or 4% citrate anticoagulants
Collection kit/container	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture technique
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8° C. Specimen must be received by the laboratory within 7 days of collection. Transport with an ice pack coolant (preferred) or at ambient temperature. Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Hemolyzed or heat treated specimens Specimens received more than 7 days after collection
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select Hepatitis C Testing)
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	The presence of anti-HCV does not constitute a diagnosis of hepatitis C disease and may be indicative of recent and/or past HCV infection. A nonreactive test result does not exclude the possibility of exposure to HCV. Levels of anti-HCV may be undetectable in early infection.
Additional Comments	Nucleic acid amplification testing for Hepatitis C RNA is recommended for patients with repeatedly reactive HCV antibody test results. A separate specimen is required for this test. Contact the Virology laboratory (860-920-6662) for specimen submission requirements or see Hepatitis C PCR.

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