

HCV/HEPC Talking Points for Providers

FAQ SHEET	
QUESTION	ANSWER
CLINICAL TIPS FOR TESTING	
Who should be tested?	<p>Anyone ages 18 to 79 years old. Priority Populations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Person who Inject Drugs (PWIDs)</i> ✓ <i>Individuals born between 1945–1965 (often called “Baby Boomers”)</i> ✓ <i>American Indians and Native Alaskans</i> ✓ <i>Women of Reproductive Age</i> ✓ <i>People living with HIV</i>
How soon after exposure to HCV can HCV antibodies be detected?	Detection of HCV antibodies occurs an average of 8-11 weeks after exposure , although cases delayed seroconversion have been documented in people who are immunosuppressed (e.g., those with HIV infection).
How soon after exposure to HCV can HCV RNA be detected?	People with recently acquired acute infection typically have detectable with HCV RNA levels as early as 1-2 weeks after exposure to the virus.
Is This Old vs New?	To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV-antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV-RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen. Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2013).
Is there a pre-set of labs that should be sent before therapy?	<p><i>Within 6 months of initiating treatment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete blood count (CBC) • Hepatic function panel (ie, albumin, total and direct bilirubin, alanine aminotransferase [ALT], and aspartate aminotransferase [AST]) 2 • Calculated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and a Hepatitis C Fibrosis Assessment (including a FIB-4 Score) <p><i>Any time prior to starting antiviral therapy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative HCV RNA (HCV Viral Load) • HIV antigen/antibody test • Hepatitis B surface antigen <p><i>Before initiating antiviral therapy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum pregnancy testing and counseling about pregnancy risks of HCV medication should be offered to women of childbearing age • HCV genotype in a patient with prior HCV treatment and/or cirrhosis
HCV/HEPC Evaluation Flow	
Henry Ford Resource Guide	For a flow chart on Hep C Treatment and information on Diagnostic Fibrosis C Assessments click here
Resources & Support	
Drug Interactions	Please visit for more information click here
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site gives comprehensive information on the MDHHS “ We Treat Hep C “ initiative click here • This site give answers to frequently asked questions about the “We Treat Hep C “ initiative. Click here for FAQ • General information and resources related to viral Hepatitis click here • Resource for information in Syringe Exchange Programs in the State of Michigan.
Pregnancy and Hepatitis C Per the CDC	For more information on Pregnancy and Hep C
Syringe Service Program Near Me	For more information on syringe exchanges and service programs within your area visit
Hepatitis C Treatment Guide & Simplified treatment algorithm for both non-cirrhotic and cirrhotic patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients without Cirrhosis visit • Patients with Compensated Cirrhosis visit