Hepatitis C: Testing Algorithm for Screening and Diagnosis

**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

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

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

**HCV Antibody Screen with Reflex to HCV RNA by PCR, Serum**

**Antibody result**
- Reactive (HCV Antibody Screen with Reflex to HCV RNA by PCR, Serum)
- Negative

**Active HCV infection**
- Follow-up and treatment decisions depend on patient risk group
- Request HCVQN in 1 to 2 months if abnormal liver enzyme levels persist without alternative diagnosis

**Past/resolved HCV infection**
- Optional: HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum

**False-reactive HCV antibody result**
- Go to HCV Treatment Algorithm

**Active or past/resolved HCV infection**
- Submit a nonhemolyzed (ie clear) serum specimen for HCVQN / 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

**False-reactive HCV infection**
- Negative

**No evidence of prior exposure to HCV**

**Hemolyzed or cadaveric serum specimen**

**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

**HCV Antibody Screen for Cadaveric or Hemolyzed Specimens, Serum**

**Antibody result**
- Reactive
- Negative

**Reactive HCV Antibody Screen result**
- Automatic reflex to: HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum

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

**Optional:** HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum

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