

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Antibody Screen with Reflex to HCV RNA, PCR, Asymptomatic, Serum

Test ID: HCSRN; performed at Mayo Clinic Laboratories Florida.

Useful for:

Screening for hepatitis C in primary care settings in high-risk persons with a current or past history of illicit injection drug use or a history of receiving a blood transfusion prior to 1992

Screening for hepatitis C in primary care settings in non-high-risk persons born from 1945 through 1965

Screening at least once in a lifetime for all adults greater or equal to 18 years old, except in settings where the prevalence of HCV infection is less than 0.1%

This test is **not offered** as a screening or confirmatory test for hepatitis C in blood or human cells/tissue donors.

This test profile is **not useful for** detection or diagnosis of acute hepatitis C virus (HCV), since HCV antibodies may not be detectable until after 2 months following exposure and HCV RNA testing is not performed on specimens with negative HCV antibody screening test results.

Reflex Tests:

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
HCVQN	HCV RNA Detect/Quant, S	Yes	No

Methods:

Chemiluminescence Immunoassay (CIA)

Reference Values:

Negative

See [Viral Hepatitis Serologic Profiles](#) in Special Instructions.

Specimen Requirements:

Supplies: Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T465)

Collection Container/Tube: Serum gel

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 2 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Centrifuge blood collection tube per collection tube manufacturer's instructions (eg, centrifuge and aliquot within 2 hours of collection for BD Vacutainer tubes).
2. Aliquot serum into plastic vial.

Minimum Volume: 1 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Serum SST	Frozen (preferred)	28 days
	Refrigerated	5 days

Cautions:

A single negative hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA test result together with a reactive HCV antibody screen result with a signal-to-cutoff ratio of 8.0 or greater does not rule out the possibility of chronic HCV infection. Repeat testing for HCV RNA in 1 to 2 months is recommended in patient at risk for chronic hepatitis C.

Infants born to HCV-infected mothers may have false-reactive HCV antibody test results due to transplacental passage of maternal HCV IgG antibodies. HCV antibody testing is not recommended until at least 18 months of age in these infants.

Performance characteristics have not been established for the following types of serum specimen:

- Individuals under 10 years of age
- Grossly icteric (total bilirubin level of >20 mg/dL)
- Grossly lipemic (triglyceride level of >3000 mg/dL)
- Grossly hemolyzed (hemoglobin level of >500 mg/dL)
- Presence of particulate matter
- Cadaveric specimens

CPT Code:

86803

G0472 (if appropriate)

87522 (if appropriate)

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Friday, Sunday **Report Available:** 1 to 3 days

Questions

Contact Bonnie Meyers, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.