Hepatitis C: Testing Algorithm for Screening and Diagnosis

**Clear serum specimen**

- Screening of all persons aged 18 to 79 years*
- Hemolyzed or cadaveric serum specimen

**Antibody result**

- Reactive
  - Automatic reflex to: HCVQN
- Negative

**Any viral load**

- Negative
  - Repeat HCVQN in 1 to 2 months if abnormal liver enzyme levels persist without alternative diagnosis
- Positive
  - Past/resolved HCV infection
  - False-reactive HCV antibody result

**Type of Patient**

- Acute hepatitis
- Immunocompromised

**Optional:**

- HCVL / Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Confirmation, Serum

**Active HCV infection**

- Go to Chronic Hepatitis C Treatment and Monitoring Algorithm: Direct Antiviral Agent (DAA) Combination

**Diagnostic testing:**

- Patient with abnormal liver enzymes with or without symptoms
- Patient with abnormal liver enzymes prior to 1992
- Injection drug user
- All persons aged 18 to 79 years*

**Hemolyzed or cadaveric serum specimen**

- Screening in the following patient type:
  - Recipient of blood or blood products prior to 1992
  - Injection drug user
  - All persons aged 18 to 79 years*

**Antibody result**

- Reactive
  - Automatic reflex to: HCVL
- Negative

**Any viral load**

- Negative
  - No evidence of prior exposure to HCV
- Positive
  - Active or past/resolved HCV infection
  - False-reactive HCV antibody result

**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**

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