

Hepatitis C RNA

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| Test Description | Assay for the detection and quantitation of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA in human serum and plasma. |
| Test Use | To aid in the diagnosis of hepatitis C infection following a repeatedly reactive HCV antibody ELISA screening test result. Or to establish baseline viral load, as well as to measure on-treatment, and post-treatment responses. |
| Test Department | Virology Phone (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661 |
| Methodology | Aptima HCV Quant Dx assay is a nucleic acid amplification test that detects and quantitates HCV RNA, genotypes 1,2,3,4,5, and 6, over the range of 10 to 100,000,000 IU/mL. |
| Availability | Weekly |
| Specimen Requirements | 2.5 mL serum, collected in serum tubes or Serum Separator Tubes, or plasma, collected in tubes containing EDTA or ACD anticoagulants or in Plasma Preparation Tubes. |
| Collection kit/container | Category B shipping box with cold pack To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information, Ph (860) 920-6674 |
| Collection Instructions | Standard venipuncture technique |
| Specimen Handling & Transport | Whole blood can be stored at 2°C to 30°C and must be centrifuged within 6 hours of collection. Centrifuged specimen can be stored in the primary collection tube at 2°C to 8°C for up to 5 days. Serum or plasma transferred to a secondary tube can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for up to 5 days, or at -20°C for up to 60 days. Transport to laboratory with ice packs. |
| Unacceptable Conditions | Unlabeled specimens Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above |
| Requisition Form | Clinical Test Requisition OL-9B For Hepatitis C screening select: Hepatitis C Testing |
| Required Information | Name and address of submitter. Two patient identifiers (ie.name, DOB, Acc.#, MRN), Town of residence (city, state, zip), specimen source/type, date collected, test(s) requested. Please ensure information on the requisition matches that on the specimen. |
| Limitations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though rare, mutations within the highly conserved regions of the viral genome covered by the primers and/or probes in the Aptima HCV Quant Dx assay may result in failure to detect the virus. |
| Additional Comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeatedly reactive HCV antibody specimens are reflexed to Hepatitis C RNA testing when specimen volume is sufficient and specimen stability requirements are met. Detection of hepatitis C viral RNA is evidence of active HCV infection but does not differentiate between acute and chronic states of infection. |

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