

Hepatitis C RNA

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	Test is performed on request.
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 the laboratory with an ice pack coolant. Avoid temperature extremes.
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 For Hepatitis C screening select: Hepatitis C Testing
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name 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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