Hepatitis C Testing

Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of antibody to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) in human serum or plasma.
Test Use	As a screening assay to aid in the diagnosis of recent and/or past infection with hepatitis C virus (HCV).
Test Department	Virology Phone (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
Availability	Test is performed 2 or 3 times weekly
Specimen Requirements	1 mL serum (preferred) or plasma derived from EDTA, lithium heparin, CPD, CP2D, CPDA-1, ACD or 4% citrate anticoagulants
Collection kit/container	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture technique
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimens at room temperature (15-25 °C) or at 2-8° C for up to 7 days, including transit time. For longer storage of specimens, keep at -20° C for up to 4 weeks. Transport to laboratory with ice packs.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Hemolyzed or heat-treated specimens
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition OL-9B (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	The presence of anti-HCV does not constitute a diagnosis of hepatitis C disease and may be indicative of recent and/or past HCV infection. A nonreactive test result does not exclude the possibility of exposure to HCV. Levels of anti-HCV may be undetectable in early infection.
Additional Comments	Nucleic acid amplification testing for Hepatitis C RNA is recommended for patients with repeatedly reactive HCV antibody test results. Repeatedly reactive HCV antibody specimens are reflexed to Hepatitis C RNA testing when specimen volume is sufficient and specimen stability requirements are meet.

Revision: 1/2/2024