

# Hepatitis C

This patient has tested reactive for antibodies to this infection through GetCheckedOnline.

This patient requires additional, confirmatory hepatitis C testing.

If you have further questions, please call a BCCDC nurse at 604.707.5603 or 1.888.488.7444

GetCheckedOnline is an online STI and HIV testing service provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC).

## HEPATITIS C TESTS

The **hepatitis C antibody test** is a screening test that tells if a person's body has ever made antibodies to hepatitis C.

- If “negative”, hepatitis C antibodies were NOT found and the person has never had hepatitis C (except in unusual circumstances).
- If “positive”, hepatitis C antibodies were found and the person has had hepatitis C at some time. It does not tell if the person is still infected.

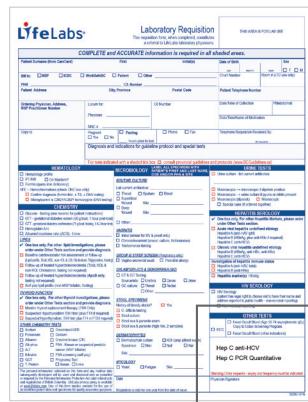
If the HCV antibody test is “positive”, it needs to be followed with a **hepatitis C virus (or PCR) test** to determine if the person is still infected by testing for the presence of the hepatitis C virus.

- If “negative”, the hepatitis C virus was NOT found and the person no longer has hepatitis C.
- If “positive”, the hepatitis C virus was found and the person has hepatitis C.

## MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

This patient requires two hepatitis C tests: **another antibody test** and a **virus test**. The lab will run both tests if they are ordered together on the same requisition. The second antibody test is needed so that the lab has the reactive result on file under the patient's real identifiers.

On the lab requisition, please write “**Hep C anti-HCV**” and “**Hep C PCR Quantitative**” in the ‘Other Tests’ section of the requisition.



OTHER TESTS	
<input type="checkbox"/> ECG	<input type="checkbox"/> Fecal Occult Blood (Age 50-74 asymptomatic q2y) Copy to Colon Screening Program.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fecal Occult Blood (other indications)
<b>Hep C anti-HCV</b> <b>Hep C PCR Quantitative</b>	
<small>Standing Order requests - expiry and frequency must be indicated</small>	
Physician Signature	

## Client Education

Counsel client:

- Explain the need for an HCV virus (PCR) test to determine if the viral infection is still present.
- If the PCR test is positive, explain the meaning of the result (i.e. the patient has hepatitis C).
- Explain the need for a repeat PCR test to rule out a false positive result.
- Provide time for the patient to process the result and confirm that the patient understands.
- Discuss the modes of transmission, harm reduction, vaccines, social and other resources, as appropriate.
- Discuss the need for regular monitoring to check for liver disease progression and for self-management support.
- Make a follow-up plan, referrals, and encourage engagement with other health care and support services as needed.
- Refer the patient to: <http://hepatitiseducation.med.ubc.ca> for more information and resources on hepatitis C.

