

Reference for Interpretation of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Test Results

If Your HCV Test Result Is:			Interpretation		Action
Anti HCV Screening Test*	Anti-HCV Supplemental Test RIBA†	HCV RNA	Anti HCV	HCV Infection	Additional Testing or Evaluation
Negative	Not Needed	Not Needed	Negative	None	No
Positive	Not Done	Not Done	Not Known	Not Known	Supplemental anti-HCV (RIBA) or HCV RNA
Positive	Not Done	Negative	Not Known	Not Known♦	Supplemental anti-HCV (RIBA)
Positive (high s/co ratio§)	Not Done	Not Done	Positive	Past/Current	Evaluate for chronic infection and liver disease
Positive	Negative	Not Needed	Negative	None	No
Positive	Positive	Not Done	Positive	Past/Current	Evaluate for chronic infection and liver disease
Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive	Past/Current♦	Repeat HCV RNA; Evaluate for chronic infection and liver disease
Positive	Positive/Not Done	Positive	Positive	Current	Evaluate for chronic infection and liver disease
Positive	Indeterminate	Not Done	Indeterminate	Not Known	Test for HCV RNA or repeat anti-HCV testing
Positive	Indeterminate	Positive	Positive	Current	Evaluate for chronic infection and liver disease
Positive	Indeterminate	Negative	Indeterminate	Not Known♦	Test for HCV RNA or repeat anti-HCV testing

* EIA (enzyme immunoassay) or CIA (enhanced chemiluminescence immunoassay).

† RIBA (recombinant immunoblot assay), a more specific anti-HCV assay.

♦ Single negative HCV RNA result cannot determine infection status, as persons might have intermittent viremia.

§ Samples with high signal-to-cut-off ratios usually (>95%) confirm positive, but supplemental serologic testing was not performed. Less than 5 of every 100 might represent false positives; more specific testing should be requested, if indicated.

Anti-HCV: Antibody to HCV

RNA: Ribonucleic acid



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Division of Viral Hepatitis



www.cdc.gov/hepatitis