

Promoting Hepatitis C Screening and Testing

Counseling messages for HCV test results

Promoting HCV screening (anti HCV) and diagnostic testing (HCV RNA or viral load) includes an understanding of a person's risk behavior to encourage testing, what the HCV tests are, what the potential results can be, and the counseling messages that should be provided with each result before a patient undergoes the test.

Two different tests are used to diagnosis HCV infection. Each test result should be provided along with risk reduction options, and the appropriate next step in the testing process, that the patient should be encouraged to take.

*Anti-HCV (HCV antibody)

Nonreactive/negative
(Risk reduction)

Reactive /positive
(Risk reduction & HCV RNA)

HCV RNA (PCR or viral load)

Not detected
(Risk reduction)

Detected
(Risk reduction & link to care)

*Additional testing as appropriate:

Unless in window period (recently infected) or immunocompromised, repeat test in 6 months to be sure

OR

may need medical evaluation to assess stage and consider for treatment

RISK REDUCTION COUNSELING MESSAGES

- Don't share needles or other injection equipment, or anything that may have blood on it
- Get tattoos, piercings, and body art from a licensed artist
- Protect your liver by avoiding alcohol
- Vaccinate against hepatitis A and hepatitis B
- Practice safer sex practices, and get treated for STDs