

Initial Hepatitis C Testing and Evaluation

Who Should Be Tested for Hepatitis C?

New: Anyone born between 1945 and 1965 should be tested once, regardless of risk factors

In addition, patients with the following risk factors:

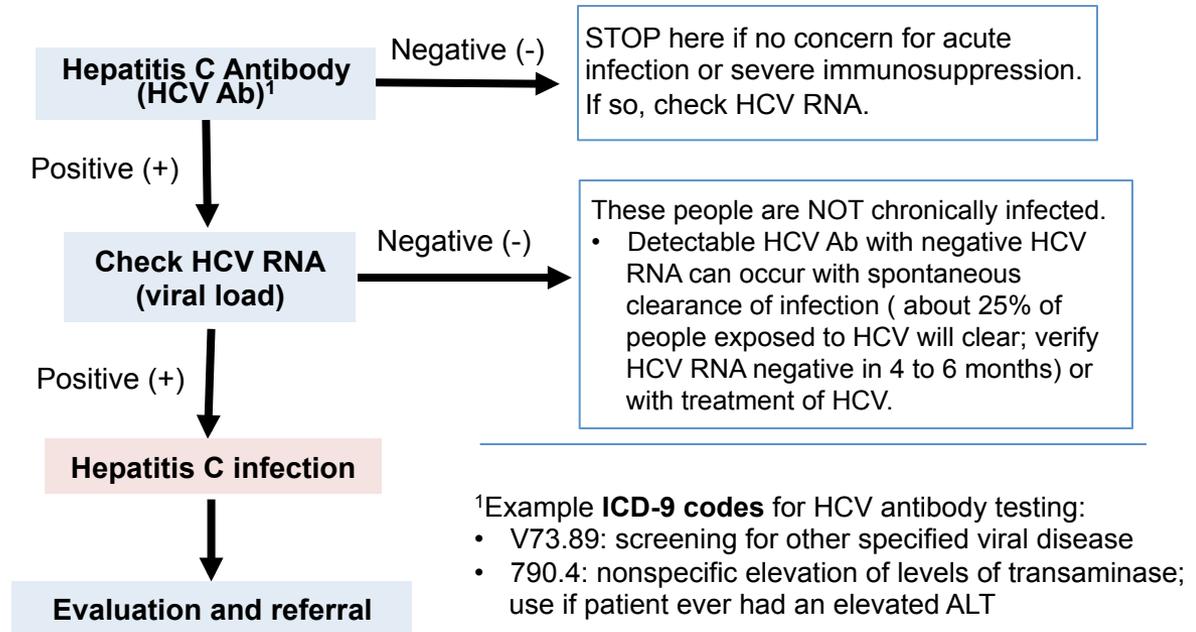
- Elevated ALT (even intermittently)
- A history of illicit injection drug use or intranasal cocaine use (even once)
- Needle stick or mucosal exposure to blood
- Current sexual partners of HCV infected persons
- Received blood/organs before 1992
- Received clotting factors made before 1987
- Chronic hemodialysis
- Infection with HIV
- Children born to HCV-infected mothers

Why Test People Born Between 1945-1965?

- 76% of the ~4 million people with HCV infection in the US are baby boomers
- In the 1945-1965 cohort:
 - All: 1 out of 30
 - Men: 1 out of 23
 - African American men: 1 out of 12
- Up to 75% do not know they have HCV
- 73% of HCV-related deaths are in baby boomers

What Can Happen to People with Hepatitis C?

- It is important to identify if patients have cirrhosis
- Patients with cirrhosis are at risk for liver cancer (HCC) and liver decompensation (ascites, variceal bleed, hepatic encephalopathy, jaundice)
- Hepatitis C is curable, and cure reduces the risk of severe complications, even with cirrhosis
- Refer patients to a specialist who has experience treating hepatitis C to see if they need treatment



Counsel Patients with HCV Infection About Reducing Risk of Transmission

- Do not donate blood, body organs, other tissue, or semen
- Do not share personal items that might have small amounts of blood (toothbrushes, razors, nail-grooming equipment, needles) and cover cuts and wounds
- HCV is not spread by hugging, kissing, food or water, sharing utensils, or casual contact
- If in short term or multiple relationships, use latex condoms. No condom use is recommended for long-term monogamous couples (risk of transmission is very low)

Initial Management

- Evaluate alcohol use (CAGE, AUDIT-C) and recommend stopping use
- Vaccinate for hepatitis A and hepatitis B if not previously exposed
- Evaluate sources of support (social, emotional, financial) needed for HCV treatment