

HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) ANTIBODY REFLEX UPDATE

April 26, 2024

Effective April 30, 2024, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) will automatically reflex HCV, RNA, Quantitative NAAT on a positive HCV antibody test result for all HCV antibody order codes. This is in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. In addition, we are updating test names and consolidating codes.

**HCV Antibody
Reflex to PCR**

Test Code Changes

NAME UPDATE	From: LAB868 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY To: LAB868 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY RFLX HCV, RNA, QUANT, NAAT
NAME UPDATE	From: LAB10006 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY – MEDICARE SPECIAL SCREENING To: LAB10006 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY (MEDICARE SCREENING) RFLX HCV, RNA, QUANT, NAAT
REPLACE	Deactivate: LAB8892 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY WITH REFLEX Replace with: LAB868 HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY RFLX HCV, RNA, QUANT, NAAT

- ➔ Please update your electronic medical record (EMR) as soon as possible.
- ➔ PDL will automatically change LAB8892 requests to LAB868 on the effective date.

CDC Testing Sequence

Center for Disease Control (CDC):
Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current HEPATITIS C (HCV) Infection

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graph TD
    A{HCV Antibody} -- (-) --> B[Non-Reactive]
    A -- (+) --> C[Reactive]
    B --> D[No HCV antibody detected]
    D --> E{{STOP*}}
    C --> F{HCV RNA}
    F -- (-) --> G[Not Detected]
    F -- (+) --> H[Detected]
    G --> I[No current HCV Infection]
    I --> J[Additional testing as appropriate†]
    H --> K[Current HCV Infection]
    K --> L[Link to Care]
            
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Testing Sequence Source: *CDC. Testing for HCV infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians. MMWR 2013;62(18)*

Footnotes:

* For persons who might have been exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, testing for HCV RNA or follow-up testing for HCV antibody is recommended. For persons who are immunocompromised, testing for HCV RNA can be considered.

† To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen.