Positive anti-HCV antibody

Test for HCV RNA with quantitative nucleic acid test

HCV RNA present

Current HCV infection:
- Obtain labs (see Box)
- Refer to hepatologist

HCV RNA absent

False positive vs resolved HCV infection (consider further testing)*

*Re-test for anti-HCV antibody with alternative assay

Alternative assay negative

Indicates initial test was false positive

Alternative assay positive

Indicates cleared infection

The asterisk represents that HCV antibody assays vary according to their antigens, test platforms, and performance characteristics, so biologic false positivity is unlikely to be exhibited by more than one test when multiple tests are used on a single specimen. Note: repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected of having 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.

Modified from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6218a5.htm?s_cid=mm6218a5_w#fig.

HCV, hepatitis C virus; RNA, ribonucleic acid.