

Hepatitis C Screening & Treatment

Recommendations for People with HIV*



Testing

Antibody Test

- Tests if person was ever exposed to hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- If positive, the person has been infected in the past
- If positive, a HCV RNA test is needed to check for current infection

HCV RNA Test (Viral Load or PCR)

- Tests the level of HCV currently in the blood
- If HCV is detectable, the person is currently infected

Genotype Test

Knowing the HCV genotype(s) of the infected person helps to identify the best direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) to prescribe



Screening^{1,2}

Screen all people with HIV for HCV antibody at initial intake or if pregnant

If positive, screen for HCV RNA

For people with HIV with known positive prior HCV antibody test, screen for HCV RNA if

- Possible recent infection (e.g., elevated ALT of unknown origin)
- CD4 count < 100 cells/mm³
- Previously HCV infected and/or treated

For people with HIV with known negative HCV antibody test, repeat test annually if:

- Injection and/or intranasal drug use
- History of incarceration
- A man having sex with men
- Exposure to others' blood



Treatment^{1,2}

- HCV treatment is safe, easy, and effective oral medications for 8-12 weeks, with few side effects
- HCV treatment regimens are available for all HCV genotypes and people on all HIV ART regimens
- HCV treatment should be offered to all co-infected people with HIV regardless of active drug use and/or nonsuppressed HIV viral load
- If treatment is delayed, liver disease progression should be monitored
- People with evidence of active HBV infection (HBsAg) should be further evaluated and treated with ART that includes agents with anti-HIV and HBV activities

AETC AIDS Education & Training Center Program National Coordinating Resource Center