

Chronic HCV Infection: Posttreatment Assessment Guide

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Treatment outcome¹

- Assess treatment outcome by quantitative HCV RNA test 12 or more weeks after completion of treatment to determine whether SVR12 (LLOQ 12–25 IU/mL) has been achieved

Quantitative HCV RNA test:

CPT code: 87522^{2,3}

Quest Diagnostics™ code: 35645²

LabCorp code: 551300³

SVR12 not
achieved



SVR12 achieved¹

For patients with undetectable HCV RNA, ≥12 weeks posttreatment

Recommendations for all patients:

- Patients with ongoing risk for HCV infection or patients who develop otherwise unexplained hepatic dysfunction:** Use a quantitative HCV RNA test to assess HCV recurrence or reinfection
- Patients who have persistently abnormal liver tests:** Assess for other causes of liver disease

Recommendations for patients without cirrhosis:

- Follow-up is the same as if they were never infected with HCV*

Recommendations for patients with cirrhosis:

- Use **upper endoscopic surveillance** in accordance with the AASLD guidance of portal hypertensive bleeding in cirrhosis[†]
- Surveillance for HCC with biannual **ultrasound examination**, with or without AFP*

*See AASLD-IDSA guidelines for more information.

[†]See AASLD guidelines on Portal Hypertensive Bleeding in Cirrhosis for more information.⁴

Posttreatment consultation:

- In patients with ongoing risk for HCV infection, counsel about **risk reduction** and **test** for HCV RNA annually and whenever they develop elevated ALT, AST, or bilirubin
- Advise **avoidance of excessive alcohol use**

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SVR12 not achieved¹

For patients with detectable HCV RNA, ≥ 12 weeks posttreatment

Recommendations for all patients:

- **Re-treatment should be considered:** Patients who failed to achieve undetectable SVR by 12 weeks posttreatment with initial treatment should be evaluated for re-treatment by a specialist*
- **Assess disease progression every 6–12 months with:**
 - Hepatic function panel
 - CBC
 - INR

Recommendations for patients with cirrhosis:

- Use **upper endoscopy** in accordance with the AASLD guidance of portal hypertensive bleeding in cirrhosis[†]
- Surveillance for HCC with biannual ultrasound examination, with or without AFP

Patients with decompensated cirrhosis (regardless of SVR12 status) with HCV infection should be referred to a medical practitioner with expertise in that condition – preferably in a liver transplant center

*See AASLD-IDSA guidelines for more information. [†]See AASLD guidelines on Portal Hypertensive Bleeding in Cirrhosis for more information.⁴

References

1. AASLD and IDSA. HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C. Last updated October 2022. www.hcvguidelines.org. Accessed March 2023.
2. Quest Diagnostics™. Hepatitis C Viral RNA, Quantitative, Real-Time PCR. <https://testdirectory.questdiagnostics.com/test/test-detail/35645/hepatitis-c-viral-rna-quantitative-real-time-pcr?p=r&q=35645&cc=MASTER>. Accessed March 2023.
3. LabCorp. Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), Quantitative, RNA. <https://www.labcorp.com/tests/551300/hepatitis-c-virus-hcv-quantitative-rnaabbott-realtme>. Accessed March 2023.
4. AASLD. *Hepatology* 2017;65:310–35.

Abbreviations

AASLD American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases	AST aspartate aminotransferase	HCV hepatitis C virus	IU/mL international units per milliliter
AFP alpha-fetoprotein	CBC complete blood count	IDSA Infectious Diseases Society of America	LLOQ lower limit of quantification
ALT alanine aminotransferase	CPT current procedural terminology	INR international normalized ratio	RNA ribonucleic acid
	HCC hepatocellular carcinoma		SVR12 sustained virologic response at posttreatment Week 12

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