



CDC Testing Recommendations:

HCV testing among perinatally exposed infants and children

Which infants and children should be tested?

All infants and children **born from persons with current or probable HCV infection** should be tested for HCV



Pregnant persons with detectable HCV RNA

Pregnant persons with detectable HCV RNA are considered to have HCV infection. If HCV antibody results are positive but no HCV RNA results are available, pregnant persons are considered to have probable HCV infection*

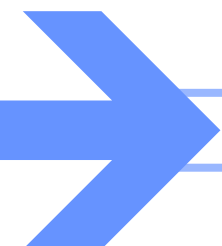
*Because a pregnant person with detectable HCV RNA at any time during pregnancy (even if followed by an undetectable HCV RNA test) can potentially transmit HCV, the infant should be tested for HCV RNA. If no HCV test from pregnancy is available and the most recent HCV RNA test is positive in the absence of treatment, a pregnant person is considered to have an HCV infection. Similarly, if no HCV test from pregnancy is available and the most recent HCV antibody test is reactive in the absence of an undetectable HCV RNA test or treatment, a pregnant person is considered to have a probable HCV infection.



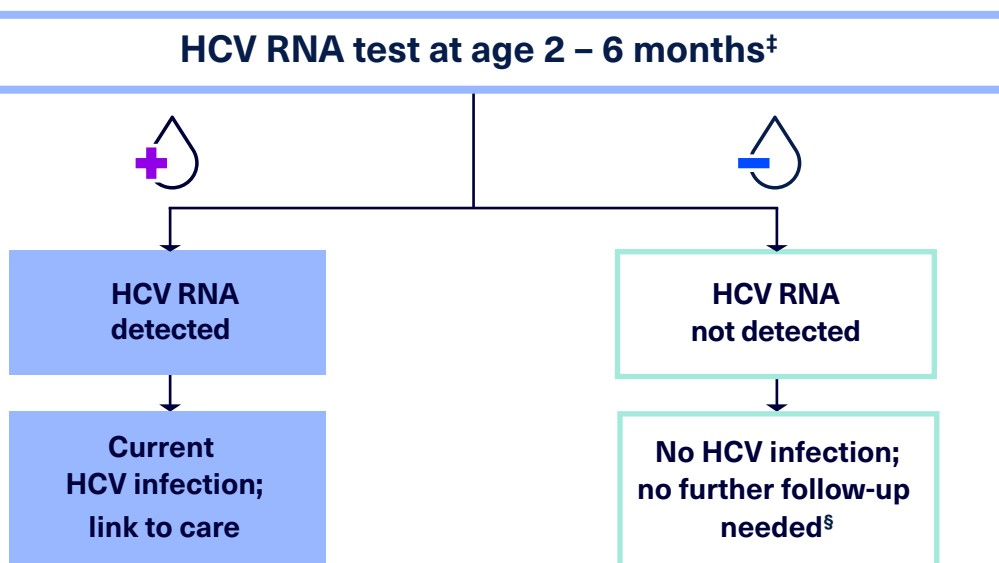
Recommendations for perinatally exposed[†] infants aged 2-6 months

Perform HCV RNA test

- Infants with detectable HCV RNA should be managed in consultation with a healthcare provider who has expertise in pediatric hepatitis C management
- Infants with undetectable HCV RNA do not require further follow-up



Recommended testing sequence



[†]Perinatally exposed children are born from pregnant persons with HCV infection.

[‡]Off-label use of an FDA-approved diagnostic test requires validation by the testing laboratory.

[§]No further follow-up needed after a negative result from an HCV RNA test performed at age 2-6 months unless clinically warranted (i.e., clinical symptoms or signs or laboratory findings consistent with HCV infection).



Recommendations for perinatally exposed[†] infants aged 7-17 months and children aged ≥18 months

Perform HCV RNA test

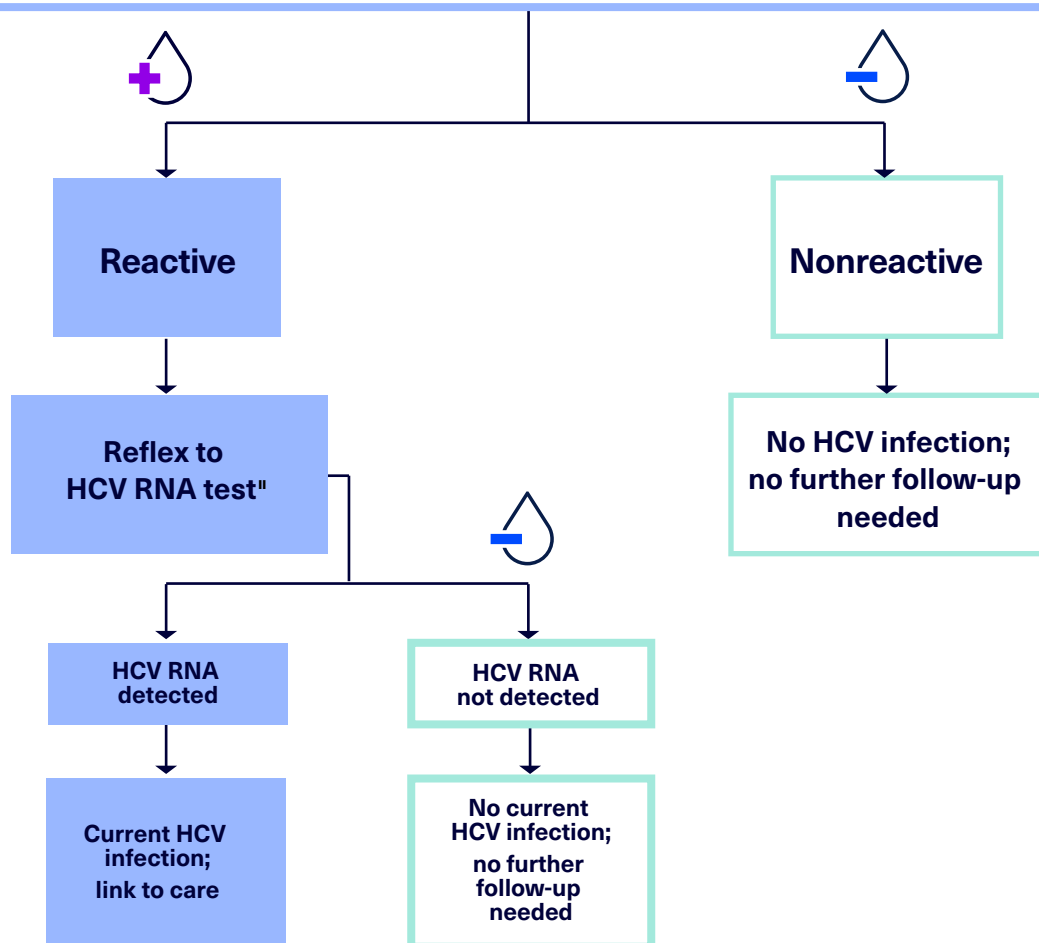
- On infants and children aged 7-17 months who have not been previously tested[‡] for HCV RNA

Perform HCV antibody test

- On children aged ≥18 months who have not been previously tested[‡] should receive HCV antibody testing with reflex to HCV RNA testing

Recommended testing sequence

HCV Ab test if aged ≥18 months and not previously tested



[†]Perinatally exposed children are born from persons with HCV infection.

[‡]Not tested for perinatal HCV transmission with HCV RNA at age 2-17 months.

[‡]A test for HCV RNA performed on specimens that are anti-HCV reactive.

Ab=antibody; FDA=Food and Drug Administration; HCV=hepatitis C virus; RNA=ribonucleic acid

Reference: Panagiotakopoulos L, Sandul A, Connors E, et al. CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Testing Among Perinatally Exposed Infants and Children — United States, 2023. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Updated November 3, 2023. Accessed January 4, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7204a1.htm>