

NEW HEPATITIS C VIRUS REFLEX TESTING PANEL

CHANGE: Effective October 13, 2021, TriCore is pleased to announce a new hepatitis C virus diagnosis testing panel to screen and confirm HCV in at-risk individuals (HCVDX). To ensure complete and timely diagnosis of HCV, a positive HCV antibody (screen) should be followed by an HCV quantitative RNA viral load (confirmatory). HCVDX includes HCV antibody and HCV RNA testing. When antibody testing is reactive or equivocal, a reflex HCV quantitative RNA viral load test is performed. Reflex testing has many benefits as it eliminates a critical barrier for linkage to care and reaching a cure for HCV. In the continuum of care, a patient with a reactive HCV antibody screen and detectable viral load should be connected to an HCV specialist for additional HCV testing and treatment.

The HCVDX test requires the collection of **two** serum separator tubes (gold top). Please see TriCore’s test directory for more information (www.tricore.org).

| TEST NAME METHODOLOGY | TEST CODE | CLINICAL UTILITY | TURNAROUND TIME (TAT) |
|--|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| NEW! Hepatitis C Virus Diagnosis HCV antibodies reflexed to HCV quantitative NOTE: The go-live for HCVDX has been changed to October 13, 2021 | HCVDX | Reflex test for screening and confirming HCV in at-risk individuals | 1-4 days |
| Hepatitis C Virus Antibodies | HCVAB | Screen for HCV antibody. This test does not include reflex testing to confirm HCV infection if positive. | Within 24 hours |
| Hepatitis C Virus Quantitative | HCVQT | Confirm HCV infection | Within 3 days |