

TriCore is pleased to announce a new hepatitis C virus diagnosis testing panel to screen and confirm HCV in at-risk individuals (HCVDX) beginning December 15th. HCVDX is a reflex test that includes HCV antibody screening and HCV quantitative viral load testing under one test code.

EXPLANATION OF THE HCVDX TEST

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	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
Hepatitis C Virus Genotype Real-time PCR	HCGENO	Genotyping for types 1-5 and subtypes 1a and 1b	Within 9 days