



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 non-suppressed 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



* This resource was adapted from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Project SUCCEED.

1 Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents with HIV. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/1/adult-and-adolescent-arv/3/tests-for-initial-assessment-and-follow-up>

2 AASLD-IDS. Patients with HIV/HCV Coinfection. Recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/hiv-hcv>. Assessed May 7, 2018

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