

NEWBORN CLINICIANS:

ARE YOU PROPERLY ASSESSING AND TESTING FOR HEPATITIS C INFECTION?



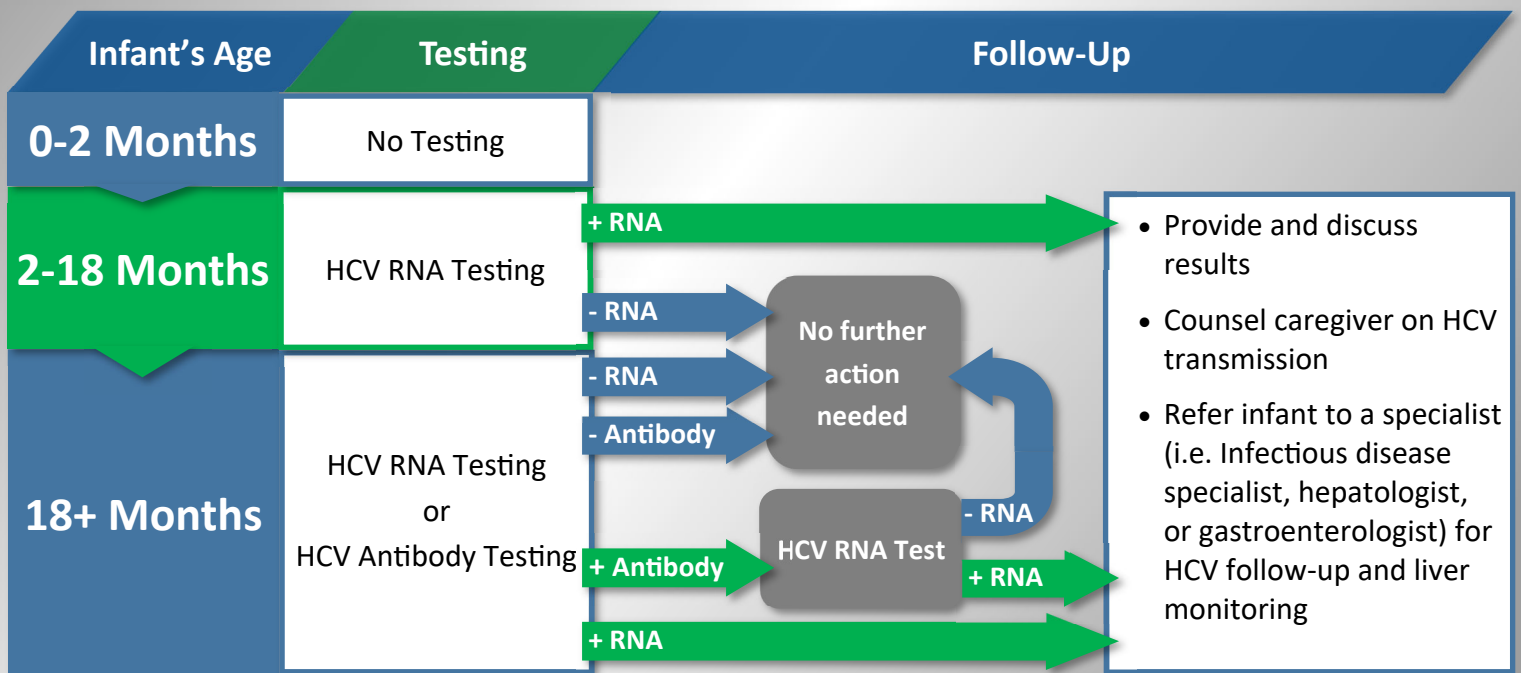
5 to 15% of infants birthed by hepatitis C infected persons will be infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV)

Over 60% of infected newborns become chronically infected with HCV

Childhood HCV infection is the leading cause of liver transplant in the US

FDA approves treatment as early as 3 years

Best Practice Recommendations for HCV Testing in Infants



MDHHS is encouraging clinicians to test infants birthed by HCV-infected persons for HCV. HCV antibodies transfer efficiently to infants at birth and may not clear for up to 18 months. Therefore, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) recommends testing infants according to this algorithm.



For more information regarding perinatal hepatitis C infection:
https://www.mi.gov/documents/mdhhs/Perinatal_HCV_Tool_Kit_FINAL_609604_7.pdf
<https://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/children>
<https://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/pregnancy>

Hepatitis C Testing for Pregnant Persons



As of 2018,
The American Association
For the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)
Recommends that **ALL** pregnant persons get tested for
Hepatitis C infection (particularly at initiation of prenatal care)

Disclaimer: The Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) is limited by binary sex data fields and where possible and when not referring explicitly to data pulled from this database, MDHHS has attempted to use inclusive language around gender that still names key risk factors related to HCV transmission.

In 2010:

Women ages 15-44 in Michigan made up 13% of new Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections

In 2021:

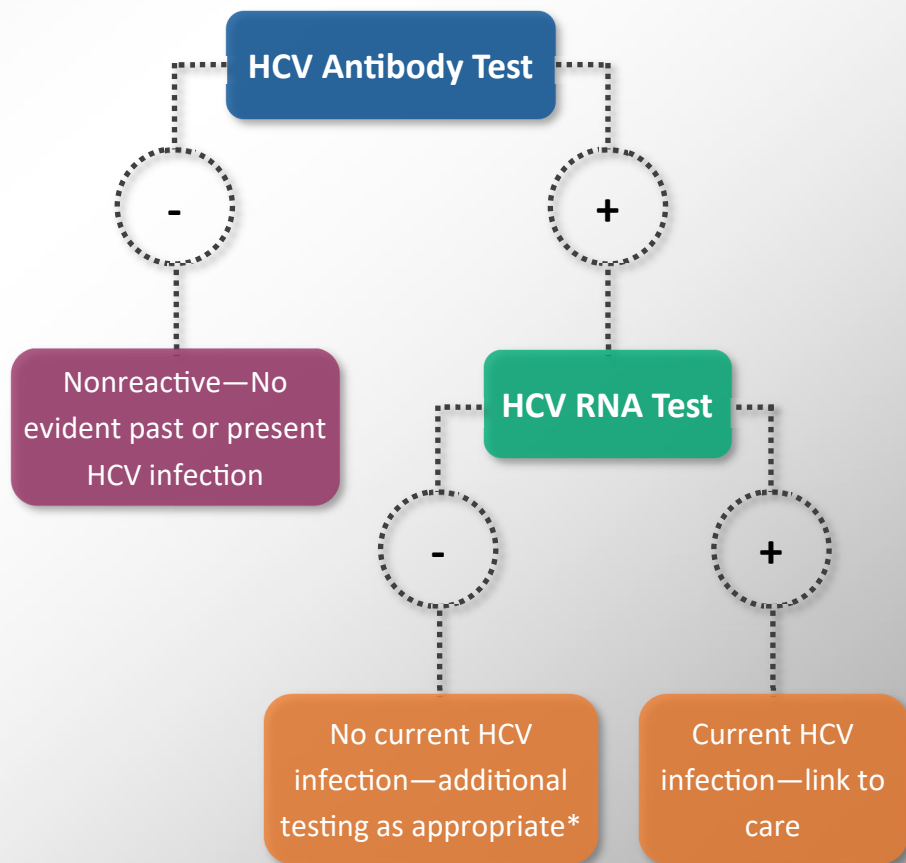
Women ages 15-44 in Michigan made up 21% of new Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections

Increase in proportion from 2010-2021 = 61.5%

Currently, pregnant persons are advised to defer HCV treatment until after birth and after completion of breastfeeding.

HCV testing should be conducted in accordance with the CDC's HCV testing algorithm:

Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current HCV Infection



https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv_flow.pdf

*To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered

For more information regarding perinatal hepatitis C infection:

https://www.mi.gov/documents/mdhhs/Perinatal_HCV_Tool_Kit_FINAL_609604_7.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/patientedmaterials.htm>

