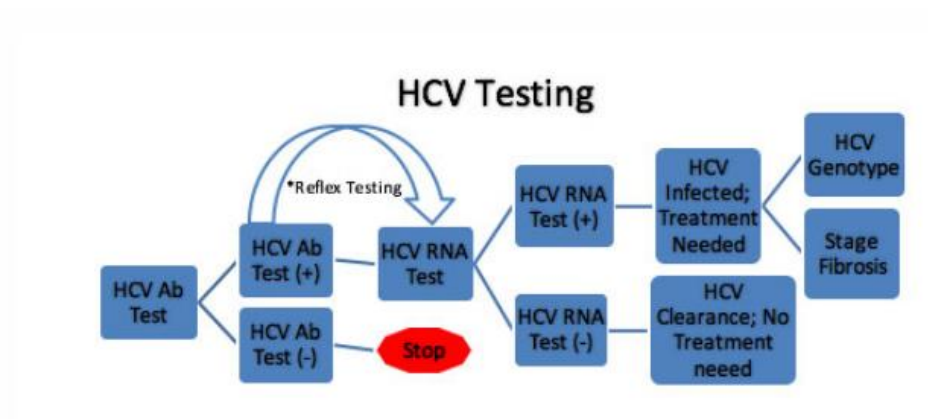


Diagnosis: Evaluation

What hepatitis C tests you should order?



1. **Hepatitis C Antibody Testing:** Presence of antibodies indicates the patient has been infected by HCV in the past but does not confirm current infection (see Figure on HCV testing. This is a screening test.

ICD-10 Code	Indication for Screening
Z11.59	Encounter for screening for other viral diseases (preferred for baby boomers)
Z22.52	Carrier (includes suspect carrier) of viral hepatitis
B18.9	Suspected carrier of viral hepatitis
Z20.5	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to viral hepatitis

CPT Code	Screening Test
86803	HCV antibody alone
86804	The Optimal screening method is a reflex test*that automatically follows up a positive HCV antibody result with a quantitative test for HCV RNA from the same blood sample
G0472	HCV antibody screen, for individual at high risk and other covered indication

*Reflex testing permits the diagnosis of chronic HCV from one blood specimen (see below for description of need for HCV RNA). This can also minimize patient travel and blood draw costs.

2. **HCV RNA** – is a confirmatory test to determine whether a patient has virus present indicating chronic HCV infection. The use of a confirmatory testing is similar to testing for HIV that requires follow-up with a Western Blot for HIV. 20 to 30 % of patients who have a positive HCV antibody will be negative for HCV RNA, suggesting that they spontaneously cleared the infection or were successfully treated. The quantitative test for HCV RNA is preferred because it provides a viral load number whereas a qualitative test does not.

CPT Codes	HCV RNA tests
87522	HCV RNA quantification (preferred)
87520	HCV RNA, direct probe technique (qualitative
87521	HCV RNA, amplified probe technique (qualitative):

3. **HCV genotype test:** CPT 87902 The genotype is a classification of the type hepatitis C virus based on sequence analysis. Hepatitis C is divided into six distinct genotypes that are located throughout the world and may have several subtypes. Management differs based on genotype.