



# Perinatal Hepatitis C

## A Guide for New York State Prenatal and Pediatric Providers

### PRENATAL PROVIDER

Hepatitis C among the United States obstetric population rose nearly **ten-fold** from 2000-2019.<sup>1</sup>

**10x**

In New York State,<sup>2</sup> **57%** of newly reported hepatitis C cases in 2023 were among females of reproductive age (15-44).<sup>3</sup>

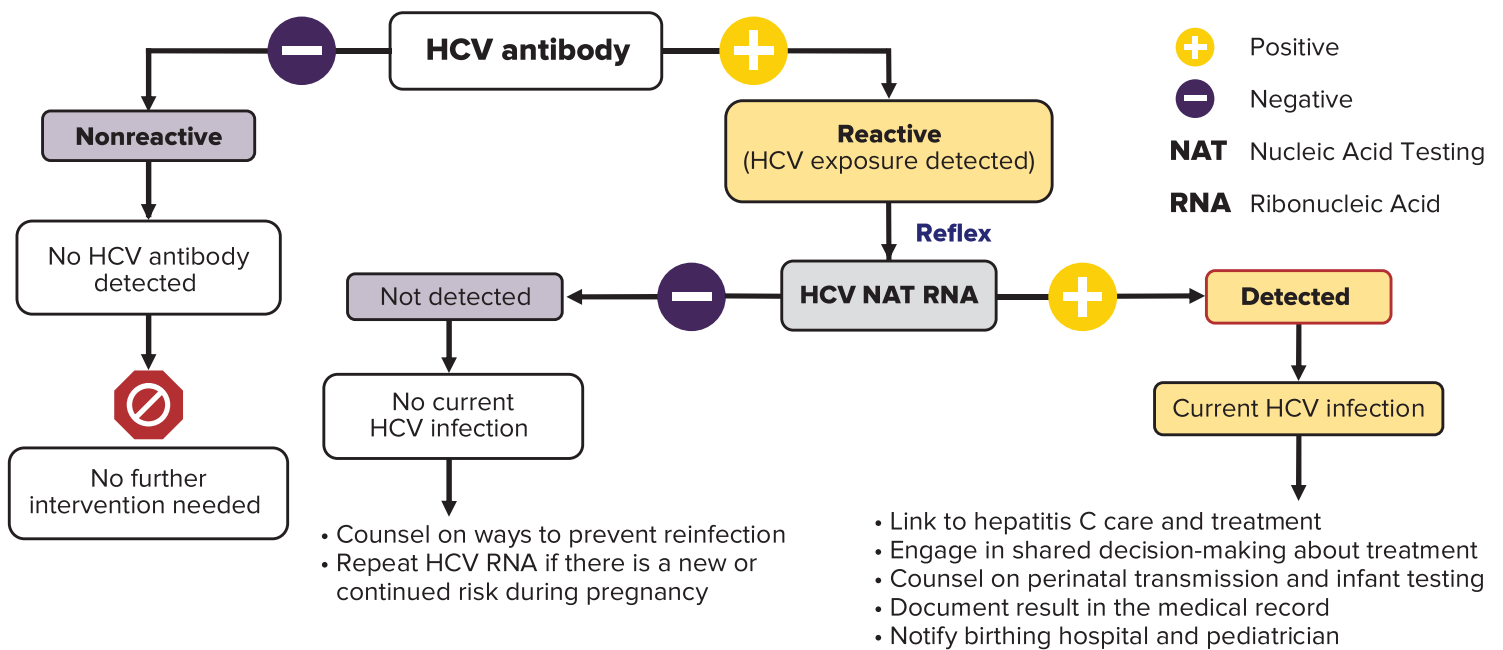
**57%**

Among infants born to people with hepatitis C, **~6%** will acquire perinatal hepatitis C infection.<sup>4</sup>

**~6%**

New York State (NYS) requires practitioners caring for pregnant persons to order a hepatitis C screening test during every pregnancy.<sup>5</sup> Ordering hepatitis C screening using an **opt-out approach** at the first prenatal encounter with other routine obstetrical labs is recommended. **Hepatitis C is curable.**

### Recommended Testing Algorithm for Identifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection<sup>6</sup>



### Hepatitis C Quick Testing Guide

**HCV antibody (-) and HCV RNA (-)**  
No Exposure to HCV

**HCV antibody (+) and HCV RNA (-)**  
Previously Exposed to HCV

**HCV antibody (+) and HCV RNA (+)**  
Infected with HCV

#### For more information, visit:

- [Hepatitis C Screening During Pregnancy Provider Toolkit](#)
- [Requirements for Universal Hepatitis C Testing Information for Health Care Providers](#)

Reporting of suspected, or confirmed, HCV is mandated under the NYS Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10): [Hepatitis Surveillance and Reporting](#)

<sup>1</sup>Arditi, B, Emont J, et al. Deliveries among patients with maternal hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 2000-2019. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2023; 141:828-36.

<sup>2</sup>New York State excluding New York City.

<sup>3</sup>NYS Hepatitis C Regional Summaries. New York State Health Department, AIDS Institute, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology. Dec 2024.

<sup>4</sup>Benova L, Mohammed YA, et al. Vertical transmission of hepatitis C virus: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clin Infect Dis* 2014; 59:765-73.

<sup>5</sup>New York State Public Health Law § 2171 and § 2500-l.

<sup>6</sup>Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HCV Testing Sequence [cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv\\_flow.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv_flow.pdf).



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## PEDIATRIC PROVIDER

The majority of infants and children with perinatal hepatitis C exposure are not tested or linked to care.<sup>7</sup>

**75%-90%**

About **6%** of infants born to people with hepatitis C will acquire perinatal hepatitis C infection.<sup>8</sup>

**~6%**

A nucleic acid test for hepatitis C should be **ordered at 2 to 6 months** old during a well-baby visit.



Curative treatment may start at three years of age for children with perinatal hepatitis C infection.



## Hepatitis C is CURABLE

### Recommended Pediatric Hepatitis C (HCV) Care Continuum<sup>7</sup>

Prenatal Screening	Exposure Identification	Testing	Diagnosis	Linkage to Care	Treatment	Cure
<p>Review birthing parent medical record for HCV status</p> <p>Identify birthing parent with HCV infection (ribonucleic acid [RNA] detected)</p>	<p>Identify infant with perinatal HCV exposure</p> <p>Inform caregiver and perinatal health care team</p> <p>Schedule pediatric testing</p>	<p><b>HCV RNA test at 2 to 6 months old preferred</b></p> <p>HCV RNA test at 7 to 17 months old</p> <p>HCV antibody test with reflex to RNA if ≥18 months</p> <p>Offer testing to siblings</p>	<p>If RNA detected, acquired perinatal HCV infection</p> <p>If RNA not detected, no acquired infection, no further testing indicated</p>	<p>Referral with linkage and navigation to an expert in pediatric HCV management</p>	<p>Repeat HCV RNA at 3 years of age, initiate treatment if HCV RNA still detected</p>	<p>Sustained virologic response (SVR)</p>

### For more information, visit:

- [Requirements for Universal Hepatitis C Testing Information for Health Care Providers](#)
- [CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Testing Among Perinatally Exposed Infants and Children – United States, 2023](#)

Reporting of suspected, or confirmed, HCV is mandated under the NYS Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10): [Hepatitis Surveillance and Reporting](#)

<sup>7</sup>Panagiotakopoulos L, Sandul AL, et al. CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Testing Among Perinatally Exposed Infants and Children – United States, 2023. MMWR Recomm Rep 2023;72(No. RR-4):1–19. DOI: [dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7204a1](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7204a1)

<sup>8</sup>Ezzeldin Saleh, Marcela Rodriguez, Adopting the 2023 CDC Early Testing for Perinatal Hepatitis C: Call to Action for Pediatric Primary Care Providers, Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, Volume 13, Issue Supplement\_5, December 2024, Pages S153 –S158.

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