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.[1]

10x

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

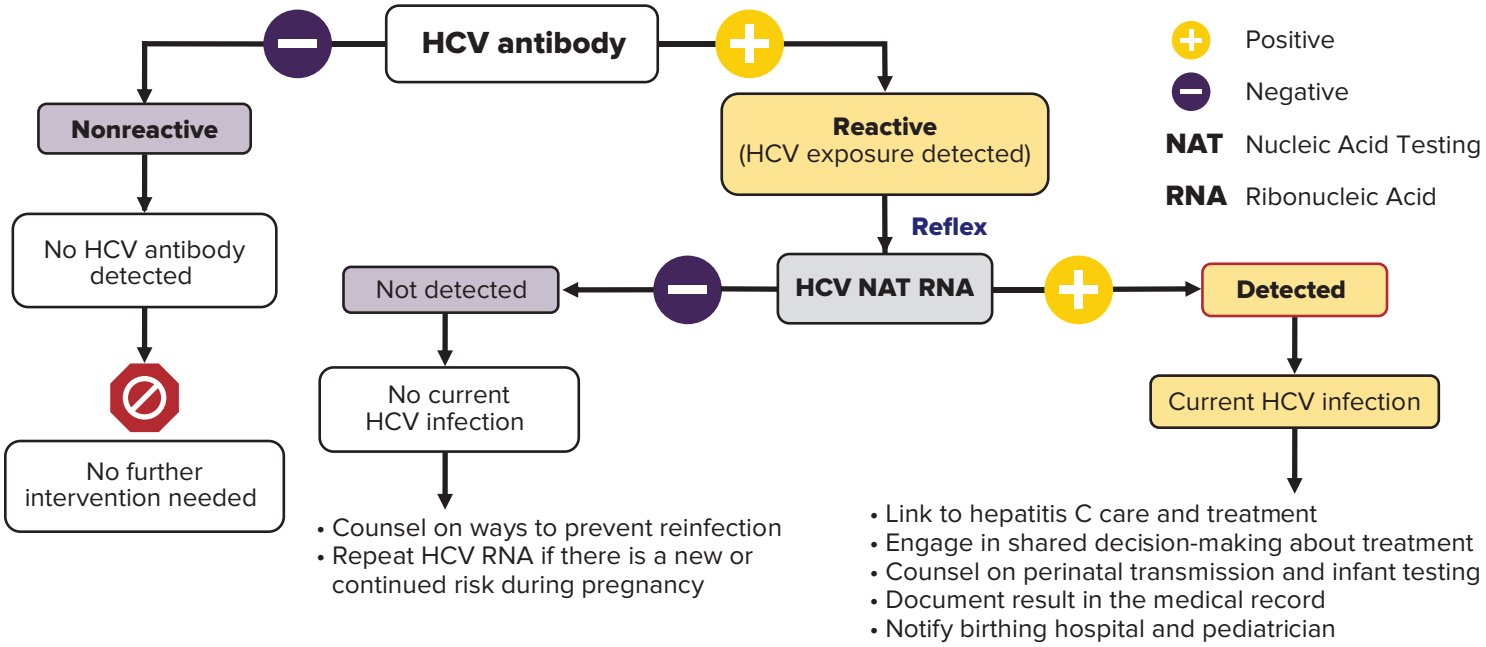
57%

Among infants born to people with hepatitis C, **~6%** will acquire perinatal hepatitis C infection.[4]

~6%

New York State (NYS) requires practitioners caring for pregnant persons to order a hepatitis C screening test during every pregnancy.[5] 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[6]



Hepatitis C Quick Testing Guide

HCV antibody (–) and HCV RNA (–)	HCV antibody (+) and HCV RNA (–)	HCV antibody (+) and HCV RNA (+)
No Exposure to HCV	Previously Exposed to HCV	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

[1]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.
[2]New York State excluding New York City.
[3]NYS Hepatitis C Regional Summaries. New York State Health Department, AIDS Institute, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology. Dec 2024.
[4]Benova L, Mohammond YA, et al. Vertical transmission of hepatitis C virus: systematic review and meta-analysis. Clin Infect Dis 2014; 59:765-73.
[5]New York State Public Health Law § 2171 and § 2500-l.
[6]Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HCV Testing Sequence 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.[7]

75%-90%

About **6%** of infants born to people with hepatitis C will acquire perinatal hepatitis C infection.[8]

~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[7]

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

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

[7]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

[8]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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