

What is the Hepatitis C Testing Program?

This program provides free Hepatitis C Antibody Rapid Test Kits and Controls to agencies that serve underinsured populations at highest risk for hepatitis C (HCV).

How do agencies meet the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible, agencies must have:

- A valid Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) permit.
- Hepatitis C screening protocols, policies and procedures.
- A comprehensive quality control plan.
- A bloodborne pathogen policy.
- Proper space and equipment to conduct the test.
- Staff trained on how to use the test device.
- Staff with a strong understanding of hepatitis C, including the proper counseling messages based on test results.
- An account on the New York State Department of Health Health Commerce System (HCS).
- The ability to collect and report data to the New York State Department of Health.
- A written linkage agreement with a provider who can provide hepatitis C care and treatment.
- The ability to reach populations at highest risk for hepatitis C, such as people who inject drugs.
- The ability to track linkage to care for all reactive clients.

Does the Hepatitis C Testing Program pay for hepatitis C diagnostic testing?

Yes. All agencies enrolled in the Hepatitis C Testing Program can offer hepatitis C ribonucleic (RNA) acid/diagnostic testing onsite, through a collaboration with the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Laboratory. Hepatitis C RNA testing is conducted by collecting a specimen on a dried blood spot (DBS) card and sent to Wadsworth for testing. Agency staff will be trained on the dried blood spot protocol after enrollment.

How do agencies enroll in the program?

Interested agencies should contact the Hepatitis C Testing Program at the number or email below to discuss enrollment and their plan for meeting the above-listed eligibility requirements. Technical assistance with the enrollment process and free trainings are available.

What are the performance expectations of agencies?

Agencies are expected to:

- Reach priority populations, to be demonstrated by identifying an hepatitis C antibody reactivity rate of greater than or equal to 10%;
- Report monthly data;
- Deliver quality hepatitis C testing services as per clinical laboratory practices; and
- Participate in periodic conference calls.

Where can agencies get more information?

Contact the Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology..

Visit: www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/

Call 518-486-6806 or email hepatabc@health.ny.gov