



Testing Recommendations for Children Born to Persons living with Hepatitis C Virus

Adapted from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7204a1.htm>

If Child is:	Order the following tests
2 - 6 Months	NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA
7 to 17 months who have not been previously tested	NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA
Aged ≥ 18 months who previously have not been tested	Anti-HCV test with reflex to NAT for HCV RNA

- Infants with **detectable HCV RNA** should be managed in consultation with a health care provider with expertise in pediatric hepatitis C management.
- Infants with an **undetectable HCV RNA** result after 2 months of age do not require further follow-up unless clinically warranted.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmit hepatitis C virus to their child during pregnancy or birth?

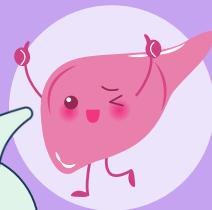
- A person must be viremic (hepatitis C virus RNA-positive) during pregnancy to transmit hepatitis C virus to their child.
- The chance of a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmitting the virus to their child is approximately 7% with each pregnancy.
- Hepatitis C virus transmission occurs at the time of birth, and no intrapartum or newborn prophylaxis is currently available.
- Most children with hepatitis C virus show few or no signs of being sick, but if untreated, hepatitis C virus can lead to serious liver damage.
- Treatment for hepatitis C virus is now available for children three years of age and older.

What hepatitis C virus information is **reportable** to the Tennessee Department of Health?

- **Laboratories** must report positive and negative hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV) for individuals aged 0-36 months (for perinatal HCV exposure assessment) and RNA results (both positive and negative) to the Tennessee Department of Health:
 - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2025-Detailed-Laboratory-Guidance.pdf>
- **Providers** must report cases of perinatal hepatitis C virus or cases of acute hepatitis C virus to the Tennessee Department of Health within one week of identification:
 - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2025-List-Providers.pdf>



PERINATAL HCV



Important Updates

Testing Recommendations for Children Born to Persons Living with Hepatitis C

DID YOU KNOW?

CDC released new testing recommendations for children perinatally exposed to hepatitis C virus (HCV).

Testing for HCV is the first step to connecting a child to treatment & cure!

WHO CAN TREAT?

Pediatricians, nurse practitioners, primary care providers, and family care clinicians can treat hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C treatment is approved starting at 3 years of age.



TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

for children born to persons living with hepatitis C

If the child is:

2 to 6 Months

Order the following tests:

NAT for HCV RNA (PCR)

7 to 17 months

who has not been previously tested

NAT for HCV RNA (PCR)

Aged ≥ 18 months

who has not been previously tested

Anti-HCV test (antibody) with reflex to NAT HCV RNA (PCR)

WHAT TO REPORT RESULTS TO TDH

- All positive and negative anti-HCV results for individuals aged 0-36 months (for perinatal HCV exposure assessment)
- For all ages
 - All positive and negative confirmatory assays for HCV RNA
 - All positive anti-HCV results

If positive also report:

- All associated results
- Pregnancy status

For more on TDH reporting visit: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/reportable-diseases.html>



BECOME A TREATMENT CHAMPION

Join Project ECHO to learn more about treating hepatitis C in TN!



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