

To: Medical Staff and Laboratory Clients

From: Eric Thompson, M.D., Robert Littlejohn, M.D., and Stephen Ingels, M.D.

Subject: ***Hepatitis C Virus Antibody reflex PCR***

Date: 06/03/24

Reactive Hepatitis C Antibody results will be automatically reflexed to the quantitative Hepatitis C Virus RNA test, as per the newly approved reflex testing policy by the Medical Executive Committee. This test can be performed on the same specimen used for the Hepatitis C Antibody (Ab) test, and no new physician order is needed. The need for ordering the Hepatitis C Virus RNA test in addition to the Hep C Ab or Hepatitis Acute Panel is no longer necessary.

The CDC recommends the implementation of reflex HCV RNA testing, which involves conducting HCV RNA testing on specimens that have tested positive for anti-HCV. This testing is done immediately and automatically in the laboratory, using the same sample that was used for the first anti-HCV test. The source of this information is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the year 2023.

Hepatitis C Genotyping may be necessary to guide antiviral medication in patients with a newly diagnosed Hepatitis C Virus infection. This test necessitates a new physician order for Hepatitis C Genotype.

The NRHS Laboratory Go-live date is planned for **Monday, June 3, 2024**.

To obtain additional information, kindly contact Stephanie Lane, the Laboratory Technical Coordinator for Referral Testing, at 405-307-1186.

Resource: Norman Regional Laboratory Services Test Catalog can be found at
<https://nrls.testcatalog.org>

References

CDC. (2023, October). *Testing Recommendations for Hepatitis C Virus Infection*. Retrieved from
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>