

HEPATITIS C Virus (HCV) - POST EXPOSURE TESTING (OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)

To be used in conjunction with the Occupational Exposure section of the agency Infection Control Manual

I. FOR THE SOURCE

Baseline testing for antibody to HCV (anti-HCV).

II. FOR THE EXPOSED EMPLOYEE

- A. Perform baseline testing for anti-HCV and ALT activity; and
- B. Perform follow-up testing (e.g., at 4-6 months) for anti-HCV and ALT activity.
- C. Confirm all anti-HCV results reported positive by enzyme immunoassay using supplemental anti-HCV testing (e.g., recombinant immunoblot assay [RIBA] or NAT for RNA).
 - 1. Employees with positive anti-HCV results at baseline testing are to be referred to their PCP for follow up.
 - 2. Employees who convert to a positive anti-HCV test during post BBP exposure follow up are to be referred to an Infectious Disease Specialist through the OSDH Occupational Health Nurse Manager.

III. MANAGEMENT:

- A. The employee exposed to HCV infected blood does not need to take any special precautions to prevent secondary transmission during the follow-up period; however, they should refrain from donating blood, plasma, organs, tissue, or semen.
- B. The exposed employee does not need to modify sexual practices or refrain from becoming pregnant.
- C. If the exposed woman is breastfeeding, she does not need to discontinue.
- D. Modification to the exposed employee's patient-care responsibilities are not necessary to prevent transmission to clients solely based on their exposure to HCV positive blood.

REFERENCE:

MMWR. June 29, 2001/Vol 50/No. RR-11.

