

HEPATITIS C VIRUS PRE- AND POST-TEST CHECKLISTS

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) pre- and post-test discussions can significantly affect how the client responds to testing and test results. When individualized to a client's needs and context, these discussions provide important preventive and health promotion information, enable better disease management, and encourage continued engagement with health and social care.

HCV Antibody Pre-test Discussion Checklist	
 Discuss the reasons for the HCV test (client or provider initiated), such as modes of transmission Provide information about the testing process, including: an explanation of the HCV antibody test, including window period and the need for HCV RNA test (HCV-PCR) if the antibody test is positive the time it takes for results to become available Explain that Public Health receives positive test results and may contact client 	 Discuss impact of possible positive result for client and others, including transmission prevention, and confidentiality and disclosure issues Waiting for test results can be challenging. Discuss supports the client might need to access during the waiting period Discuss a follow-up plan to obtain results and vaccines available for those at-risk/infected Check the client's understanding of the information provided Confirm if the client is now ready to proceed with testing

HCV Antibody Post-test Discussion Checklists HCV Antibody Test Negative Positive ☐ Explain the meaning of a negative test result Receiving a diagnosis of HCV is complex and can be life and confirm client understanding changing. It is important to convey the test results and relevant information in a positive and culturally sensitive way that Discuss indications for further testing, encourages engagement and facilitates follow-up planning with considering window periods, ongoing risk the client. behaviours, or being immune compromised. Make a follow-up plan, if Explain the meaning of a positive test result (i.e., the client has applicable been exposed to hepatitis C) ☐ For those at-risk, explore resources needed Provide time for the client to process the result and confirm such as education, harm reduction, client's understanding vaccines, social and other resources, as Explain the need for an HCV RNA test to determine if the viral appropriate infection is still active ☐ Make referrals and encourage engagement Discuss potential for stigma and that disclosure is voluntary with health care and other support services, ☐ Discuss modes of transmission, harm reduction, vaccines, as needed social and other resources, as appropriate ☐ Make a follow-up plan and make referrals to other health care and support services, as appropriate



HCV RNA Post-test Discussion Checklists HCV RNA Test Negative Positive Explain the meaning of a Explain the meaning of a positive test (active HCV infection) negative test (i.e., the client has Explain the need for a repeat RNA test to rule out a false positive result cleared the virus and is no ☐ If you suspect a newly acquired infection, discuss the need for another longer infected) HCV RNA test in about six months to check if the infection is ongoing ☐ Explain the need for a repeat Provide time for the client to process the result and confirm that they test to rule out a false negative understand the result test result Discuss modes of transmission, transmission prevention, lack of ☐ Discuss risks for re-infection immunity against other HCV genotypes, and notifying contacts at-risk ☐ Discuss any difficulties/issues Explain that HCV is a chronic disease that progresses slowly and the client may have in practicing treatments are available safer behaviours, if appropriate **T** Explain the impact of alcohol and other substances on the progression ☐ Explore resources needed such of liver disease as education, harm reduction, vaccines, or others Discuss the potential for stigma and that disclosure is voluntary Discuss healthy lifestyles (diet, exercise) and harm reduction (e.g., safer engagement with health care behaviours and any difficulties that the person may have in practicing and other support services, as safer behaviours) needed ☐ Explore resources needed, such as HCV education or harm reduction ☐ Check the client's understanding resources of the information provided Determine the need for vaccines (e.g., hepatitis A and B, pneumococcal, and influenza) Discuss the need for regular monitoring to check for liver disease progression and for self-management support Make a follow-up plan and make referrals to other health care and support services, as appropriate

For more information, visit www.bccdc.ca and type "Attendance Project" in the search box.

This resource was created by the Attendance for Hepatitis C Care Project team led by Dr. Gail Butt (gailbutt@mail.ubc.ca). It would not have been possible without the valuable contributions from individuals affected by hepatitis C and service providers across Canada, support from the University of British Columbia and the BC Centre for Disease Control, and funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada.