



**TO:** VCU Health Physicians, House staff, and Nurses

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**DATE:** May 11th, 2023

**SBAR: Reflex test for Employee Health needed to comply with CDC guidelines – Anti HCV Antibody with Reflex to HCV RNA.**

**Situation:** Approval for creation of a reflex Hepatitis C (HCV) laboratory test for VCUH Employee Health blood and body fluid exposure order sets is requested.

**Background:** VCUH Employee Health blood and body fluid exposure protocols were compared to current CDC recommendations. A difference between the current protocol and the CDC-recommended protocol for HCV testing was noted. The CDC recommends that the source patient involved in an employee blood or body fluid exposure should be tested for HCV infection using HCV screening and confirmatory testing<sup>1</sup>.

**Assessment:** The CDC recommends that the source patient should be tested for HCV infection using the anti-HCV antibody screening test. If the anti-HCV antibody screen is positive, the blood should then be tested for HCV RNA to confirm an active HCV infection. Testing should be performed within 48 hrs of exposure.

Currently, no reflex testing for HCV infection is available. If the anti-HCV antibody screen is positive, ordering of the confirmatory HCV RNA test may be missed. In some cases, the source patient is no longer available, and blood for confirmatory testing cannot be obtained. The reflex test will enable automatic confirmatory HCV RNA testing of the original specimen obtained from the source patient if the anti-HCV screening test is positive.

The reflex test will be limited to Employee Health blood and body fluid exposure order sets to prevent misutilization of the reflex test.

**Recommendation:** The Medical Executive Committee should approve creation of a new reflex test: Anti HCV Antibody with Reflex to HCV RNA, for use in Employee Health blood and body fluid exposure order sets.

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<sup>1</sup>Moorman AC, dePerio MA, Goldschmidt R, et al. Testing and Clinical Management of Health Care Personnel Potentially Exposed to Hepatitis C Virus – CDC Guidance, United States, 2020. MMWR Recomm Rep 2020;69 (No. RR-6):1-8.