



## 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
<b>2 - 6 Months</b>	<b>NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA</b>
<b>7 to 17 months who have not been previously tested</b>	<b>NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA</b>
<b>Aged ≥ 18 months who previously have not been tested</b>	<b>Anti-HCV test with reflex to NAT for HCV RNA</b>

- 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?

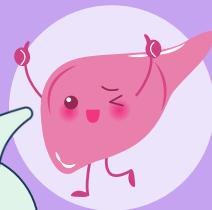
- A person must be viremic (hepatitis C virus RNA-positive) during pregnancy to transmit hepatitis C virus to their child.
- The chance of a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmitting the virus to their child is approximately 7% with each pregnancy.
- Hepatitis C virus transmission occurs 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  $\geq 18$  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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