

What is the Hepatitis C Testing Program?

This program provides free HCV Antibody Rapid Test Kits and Controls to agencies that serve underinsured populations at highest risk for hepatitis C (HCV).

How do agencies meet the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible, agencies must have:

- A valid Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) permit.
- HCV screening protocols, policies and procedures.
- A comprehensive quality control plan.
- A bloodborne pathogen policy.
- Proper space and equipment to conduct the test.
- Staff trained on how to use the test device.
- Staff with a strong understanding of HCV, including the proper counseling messages based on test results.
- An account on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS).
- The ability to collect and report data to the NYSDOH via the AIDS Institute Reporting System (AIRS).
- A written linkage agreement with a provider who can at minimum perform HCV diagnostic testing and medical evaluation.
- The ability to reach populations at highest risk for HCV, such as people who inject drugs.
- The ability to track linkage to care for all reactive clients.

Does the Hepatitis C Testing Program pay for HCV diagnostic testing?

Yes. All agencies enrolled in the HCV Testing Program can offer HCV RNA/diagnostic testing onsite, through a collaboration with the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory. HCV RNA testing is conducted by collecting a specimen on a dried blood spot (DBS) card and sent to Wadsworth for testing. Agency staff will be trained on the DBS protocol after enrollment.

How do agencies enroll in the program?

Interested agencies should contact the HCV Testing Program at the number or email below to discuss enrollment and their plan for meeting the above-listed eligibility requirements. Technical assistance with the enrollment process and free trainings are available.

What are the performance expectations of agencies?

Agencies are expected to:

- Reach priority populations, to be demonstrated by identifying an HCV antibody reactivity rate of greater than or equal to 10%;
- Report monthly data;
- Deliver quality HCV testing services as per clinical laboratory practices; and
- Participate in periodic conference calls.

Where can agencies get more information?

Contact the Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care.

Visit: www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/

Call 518-486-6806 or email hepatabc@health.ny.gov