ᐸᐅᒃᑐᑏᑦ Pauktuutit
ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᇉᓇᐃᑦ ᑲᓇᑕᒥ INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Hepatitis C Virus Pre- and Post-Test Checklists ✔

Confidential hepatitis C Virus (HCV) pre- and post-test discussions can significantly affect how the client responds to testing and test results. When **using simple language** and individualized to a client's needs, 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

○ Explain the meaning of a negative test result and confirm client understanding.

○ Discuss indications for further testing, considering window periods, ongoing risk behaviours, or being immune compromised. Make a follow-up plan, if applicable.

○ For those at-risk, explore resources needed such as education, harm reduction, vaccines, social and other resources, as appropriate.

○ Make referrals and encourage engagement with health care and other support services, as needed.

○ Explain the meaning of a positive test result (i.e., the client has been exposed to hepatitis C).

Positive

Receiving a diagnosis of HCV is complex and can be life changing. It is important to convey the test results and relevant information in a positive and culturally safe way that encourages engagement and facilitates follow-up planning with the client.

○ Provide time for the client to process the result and confirm client's understanding.

○ Explain the need for an HCV RNA test to determine if the viral infection is still active.

○ Discuss potential for stigma and that **disclosure is voluntary**.

○ Discuss modes of transmission, harm reduction, vaccines, social and other resources, as appropriate.

○ Make a follow-up plan, make referrals, and encourage engagement with other health care and support services, as needed.

HCV RNA Post-Test Discussion Checklists ✓

HCV RNA Test

Negative

- ○ Explain the meaning of a negative test (i.e., the client has cleared the virus and is no longer infected).
- ○ Explain the need for a repeat test to rule out a false negative test result.
- ○ Discuss risks for re-infection.
- ○ Discuss any difficulties/ issues the client may have in practicing safer behaviours, if appropriate.
- ○ Explore resources needed such as education, harm reduction, vaccines, or others.
- ○ Make referrals and encourage engagement with health care and other support services, as needed.
- ○ Check the client's understanding of the information provided.

Positive

- ○ Explain the meaning of a positive test (active HCV infection).
- ○ Explain the need for a repeat RNA test to rule out a false positive result.
- ○ If you suspect a newly acquired infection, discuss the need for another HCV RNA test in about six months to check if the infection is ongoing.
- ○ Provide time for the client to process the result and confirm that they understand the result.
- ○ Discuss modes of transmission, transmission prevention, lack of immunity against other HCV genotypes, and notifying contacts at-risk.
- ○ Explain that HCV is a chronic disease that progresses slowly and treatments are available.
- ○ Explain the impact of alcohol and other substances on the progression of liver disease.

- ○ Discuss the potential for stigma and that **disclosure is voluntary**.
- ○ Discuss healthy lifestyles (diet, exercise) and harm reduction (e.g., safer behaviours and any difficulties that the person may have in practicing safer behaviours).
- ○ Explore resources needed, such as HCV education or harm reduction resources.
- ○ 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.
- ○ Ask the client about other supports, such as family, friends, community, traditional and spiritual (e.g., spiritual leaders, sweats, ceremonies).

www.pauktuutit.ca   info@pauktuutit.ca

ᐸᐅᒃᑑᑎᑦ
PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA
ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᕐᓇᐃᑦ ᑲᓇᑕᒥ