

Hepatitis C Virus Screening

CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS (C&TC) FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening is recommended once for ages 18 and older. There is a cure for HCV, and screening earlier in life can maximize the impact of treatment.

C&TC standards

General

HCV screening is recommended once during C&TC visits for young adults aged 18 and older.

Personnel

A licensed health care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant) must interpret the results of HCV screening and ensure appropriate follow-up testing if needed.

Documentation

Document the HCV screening lab test order. Document a complete record of lab test results in the patient's record.

Refer to the [C&TC Provider Documentation Forms](#) for documentation examples or to use as a template with your electronic medical record.

Procedure

Screen for HCV infection using a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved anti-HCV lab test. If anti-HCV testing results are positive/reactive, the test should automatically reflex to an FDA-approved nucleic acid test to detect HCV RNA

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023).

Refer to [Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus \(HCV\) Infection](#).

Importance of HCV screening

HCV is the most common blood-borne pathogen in the United States (Chou, et al., 2020). HCV can cause liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (Cartwright & Patel, 2024). In the last decade, the greatest increase in acute HCV infection was in young adults aged 20 to 39 who inject drugs (Chou, et al., 2020; United States Preventive Services Task Force, 2020).

In Minnesota, 31,942 individuals were known to be living with HCV infection in 2023 (Minnesota Department of Health, 2024).

Screening earlier in life increases the likelihood of detecting earlier stages of the disease, maximizing the potential impact of treatment (United States Preventive Services Task Force, 2020). Direct-acting antiviral therapies can cure more than 98% of infections (Mangarelli, Raghupatruni, Latimer, & Jhaveri, 2024).

Professional recommendations

American Academy of Pediatrics

Screen for HCV infection at least once between 18 and 21 years (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2025).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Screen for HCV infection at least once for all adults 18 years and older. This screening should occur in all settings except those where the prevalence of HCV infection (HCV RNA-positivity) is less than 0.1%. Most settings will not have performed sufficient testing to calculate their HCV prevalence. Settings without HCV prevalence data should initiate universal HCV screening (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023).

United States Preventive Services Task Force

Screen for HCV infection at least once between 18 and 79 years (United States Preventive Services Task Force, 2020).

Resources

Minnesota Department of Human Services

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section](#)

Minnesota Department of Health

- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\)](#)
- [Hepatitis C](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C](#)

For more information

The Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is administered through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

For questions about this fact sheet or to obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3650 or email health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us.

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Resource links

- [C&TC Provider Documentation Forms \(https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources\)](https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources)
- [Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus \(HCV\) Infection \(www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv_flow.pdf\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv_flow.pdf)
- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards \(https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG\)](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section \(www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_150092\)](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_150092)
- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm)
- [Hepatitis C \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.html)
- [Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C \(https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). *Clinical Screening and Diagnosis for Hepatitis C*. Retrieved from Hepatitis C: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html>

Chou, R., Dana, T., Rongwei, F., Zakher, B., Wagner, J., Ramirez, S., . . . Jou, J. (2020). Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults. *JAMA*, 323(10), 976-991. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.20788

Mangarelli, C., Raghupatruni, P., Latimer, T., & Jhaveri, R. (2024). Integrating Universal Hepatitis C Screening Into Adolescent Well Visits Is a “Win-Win” Scenario: Rationale and Demonstration of Real-world Feasibility and Implementation. *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2024). *Chronic Hepatitis C Infection Statistics*. Retrieved from Minnesota Department of Health: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/stats/current.html

United States Preventive Services Task Force. (2020). Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults. *JAMA*, 323(10), 970-975. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.1123

References

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2025, February). *Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care*. Retrieved from https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf

Cartwright, E., & Patel, P. (2024). Opportunities for Enhanced Prevention and Control of Hepatitis C Through Improved Screening and Testing Efforts. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.