

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. Many people with HCV do not have symptoms. There is a cure for HCV.

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 documentation forms on the [C&TC Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment resources](#) webpage 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 [CDC], 2025).

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

Importance of HCV screening

Most people with HCV don't have symptoms.

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; US Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF], 2020).

In Minnesota, 31,292 individuals were known to be living with HCV infection in 2024 (Minnesota Department of Health, 2025).

Direct-acting antiviral therapies can cure more than 98% of infections (Mangarelli et al., 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

HCV screening is recommended for all adults 18 and older at least once in their lifetime and for pregnant women during each pregnancy (CDC, 2025).

United States Preventive Services Task Force

Screen for HCV infection at least once between 18 and 79 years (USPSTF, 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](#)
- [Hepatitis C Virus \(HCV\) Information for Health Care Providers \(PDF\)](#)

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 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment resources \(https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources\)](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 \(www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/pdfs/hcv_flow.pdf\)](http://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)
- [Hepatitis C Virus \(HCV\) Information for Health Care Providers \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/hcp/hepcfact.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/hcp/hepcfact.pdf)
- [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)

References

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- Chou, R., Dana, T., Fu, R., Zakher, B., Wagner, J., Ramirez, S., Grusing, S., & Jou, J. H. (2020). Screening for hepatitis C virus infection in adolescents and adults. *JAMA*, 323(10), 976-991. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2019.20788>
- Mangarelli, C., Raghupatruni, P., Latimer, T., & Jhaveri, R. (2024). Integrating universal hepatitis C screening into well visits is a “win-win” scenario: Rationale and demonstration of real-world feasibility and implementation. *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*, 13(supplement 5), S166-S170. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpids/piae107>
- Minnesota Department of Health (2025, June). *Chronic hepatitis C statistics*. Retrieved from www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/c/stats/current.html
- US Preventive Services Task Force (2020). Screening for hepatitis C virus infection in adolescents and adults: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA*, 323(10), 970-975. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.1123>