

Tests Used for Diagnosing Hepatitis C



Two different types of blood tests, usually taken at two different times, are needed to tell if a person is living with hepatitis C.

Test 1 Hepatitis C Antibody Test

This screening test tells if a person's body has ever made antibodies to fight against hepatitis C.

- If "negative", the person has **never** had hepatitis C (except in unusual circumstances).
- If "positive", the person has had hepatitis C at some time. It does **not** tell if the person still has hepatitis C.

Test 2 Hepatitis C Virus Test

This test (also known as a hepatitis C RNA or PCR) is ordered if test 1 comes back "positive." It shows if a person still has hepatitis C by testing for the presence of the virus.

- If "negative", the person **no longer** has hepatitis C.
- If "positive", the person has hepatitis C.



Hepatitis C Antibody Test The first test checks if a person has ever had hepatitis C.

If Negative

Person has never had hepatitis C.

If Positive

- Hepatitis C antibodies are present.
- Person has had hepatitis C at some time.
- Does not tell if person still has hepatitis C.

Test 2 Hepatitis C Virus Test

Checks if the person is still living with hepatitis C.

If Negative

Person no longer has hepatitis C.



If Positive

Person has hepatitis C.



Always discuss with a health care provider the meaning of your test results and if follow-up is necessary.

For more information, visit www.pauktuutit.ca or www.bccdc.ca and type "Attendance Project" in the search box. Email - info@pauktuutit.ca.

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