



EASTERN LIVER
NETWORK

HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C (HCV) is contracted through blood to blood contact. 80% of those exposed go on to develop chronic HCV, which leads to cirrhosis or liver cancer in 20% of patients over 1-3 decades. A short course of well tolerated therapy clears the disease in more than 90% of patients.

Who to test?

- ◇ Blood/tissue donors
- ◇ Patients on haemodialysis
- ◇ Healthcare professionals
- ◇ Patients with a history of injecting drug use
- ◇ Patients who are HIV positive
- ◇ Recipients of blood clotting factor concentrates prior to 1987
- ◇ Recipients of blood and bone components before Sept 1991
- ◇ Recipients of organ/tissue transplants before 1992
- ◇ Children whose mother is known to be infected
- ◇ Healthcare professional following exposure to blood known/suspected to be infected
- ◇ Prisoners
- ◇ Patients who originate from high prevalence populations
- ◇ Patients who have received medical or dental treatment where infection control may be poor

How to test

Send a serum sample for assessment of antibody to HCV. If positive, send an EDTA sample to assess for active infection (HCV RNA). Refer all HCV RNA patients for consideration of treatment.

Where to refer

Addenbrooke's Hospital
Basildon Hospital
Bedford Hospital
Ipswich Hospital
Luton & Dunstable Hospital
Norfolk & Norwich Hospital
Peterborough Hospital