Florida HEALTH
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	Hepatitis C Antibody (HCVAb)
Other Name (s)	Hepatitis C Antibody Screen (IgG + IgM)
Analyte(s)	Hepatitis C Antibody (IgG + IgM)
Test Code	0330
Lab location	Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa locations
Department	Serology
Pre-Approval Required	None
Additional Required Forms	None
Specimen Source	Serum (preferred) or whole blood
Special Specimen Preparation	None
Minimum Volume	2 ml serum (preferred) or 5-6 ml whole blood
Storage Conditions	Ship in a cooler with ice packs at 2-8C to be received no more than 7 days from collection date. Specimens may be stored on or off the clot, red blood cells or separator gel for up to 3 days RT or up to 7 days at 2-8C. If testing is delayed more than 3 days for specimens stored at RT or more than 7 days for specimens stored at 2-8C, remove serum from the clot, red blood cells or separator gel and store at –20C or colder. Avoid more than three freeze/thaw cycles.
Collection Media	Serum (tiger or yellow top SST) preferred
Specimen Labeling	Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers, Ex: Name and DOB. **Electronic lab order preferred, HMS, Etc.** **Information on the specimen must match the requisition.**
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Ship in a cooler with ice packs at 2-8C to be received no more than 7 days from collection date.
Test Methodology	Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay (CMIA)
Turnaround Time	48-96hrs
Result Indicator	Reactive, Equivocal, Nonreactive
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Grossly hemolyzed, heat-inactivated, pooled and contaminated samples. Cadaveric specimens and fluids other than human serum or plasma. Specimens that exceed the storage limitations listed above.
Interferences and Limitations	1. For diagnostic purposes, results should be used in conjunction with patient history and other hepatitis markers for diagnosis of acute and chronic infection. 2. Current methods for the detection of antibodies to HCV may not detect all infected individuals. A non-reactive test result does not exclude the possibility of exposure to HCV. 3. Immunocompromised patients who have HCV may produce levels of antibody below the sensitivity of this assay and may not be detected as positive. 4. Results obtained with this assay may not be used interchangeably with values obtained with different manufacturers' assay methods. 5. Assay performance characteristics have not been established for newborns, infants, children or populations of immunocompromised or immunosuppressed patients. 6. Patients routinely exposed to animals or to animal serum products can be prone to interference and anomalous values may be observed. Additional information may be required for diagnosis. 7. A reactive anti-HCV result does not exclude co-infection by another hepatitis virus.
Additional Information & Notes	Reactive: Presumptive evidence of antibodies to HCV; follow CDC recommendations for supplemental testing. Equivocal: Antibodies to HCV may or may not be present; follow CDC recommendations for supplemental testing. Nonreactive: Antibodies to HCV not detected; does not exclude the possibility of exposure to HCV.
Reference Range	Non-Reactive
Reference Lab	None
Reflex testing	Test 0390 HCV RNA NAAT if reactive or equivocal