

# Hepatitis C virus (HCV) Medicare criteria

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## Qualitative HCV PCR detection

PCR testing to detect HCV RNA is eligible for a Medicare rebate if at least one of the following criteria is met:

### Patients not on treatment:

- The patient is Hepatitis C seropositive, or
- The patient's serological status is uncertain after testing, or
- The test is performed for the purpose of:
  - (i) determining the Hepatitis C status of an immunocompromised patient
  - (ii) detecting acute Hepatitis C prior to seroconversion where considered necessary for the clinical management of the patient.

The patient may have only 1 test in a 12-month period.

### Patients on treatment:

- The test is performed for the purpose of detecting HCV RNA in a patient receiving antiviral therapy for chronic HCV hepatitis.

The patient may have up to 4 tests in a 12-month period.

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## Quantitative HCV viral load

An HCV viral load assay is eligible for a Medicare rebate if the following criteria are met:

- The test is performed for the purpose of pretreatment or evaluation, or
- The test is performed to assess the efficacy of antiviral therapy for chronic HCV hepatitis.

The test must be requested by or on the advice of the specialist or consultant physician who manages the treatment of the patient with chronic HCV hepatitis.

The patient may have up to 2 tests in a 12-month period.

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## Hepatitis C genotyping

Testing to determine the HCV genotype is eligible for a Medicare rebate if the following criteria are met:

- The patient is HCV RNA positive and is being evaluated for antiviral therapy of chronic HCV hepatitis, and
- The test must be requested by or on the advice of the specialist or consultant physician who manages the treatment of the patient with chronic HCV hepatitis.

The patient may have only 1 test in a 12-month period.

Please refer to Australian recommendations for the management of chronic Hepatitis C virus infection: a consensus statement January 2017 available at: <http://www.ashm.org.au/HCV/resources/>