The Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s Perinatal Hepatitis C Program (PHCP) was established in 2016. The program follows all Hepatitis C (Hep C) positive pregnant women through delivery until adequate follow-up testing is performed on the woman and infant. This is the only program of this type in the nation!

**OVERVIEW**

- **5.6%** of infants born to Hep C positive women become infected.
- **There is no pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis for Hep C to prevent vertical transmission.**

**PHILLY FACTS**

- **~300** women are Hep C (+) and pregnant each year in Philadelphia.
- **15%** of infants born 2011-2013 to Hep C (+) women were tested for Hep C by 24 months of age.

**AT-RISK WOMEN SHOULD BE TESTED:**
All pregnant women with known risk factors for Hep C should be screened for Hepatitis C Antibody (Hep C Ab) & if positive tested for Hep C RNA. Testing should be repeated before delivery if she is at continued risk for Hep C exposure. Risks include history of injection or illicit drug use, risky sexual behaviors, & non-commercial tattoos.

### Prenatal Care Providers

**If woman is Hep C Ab (+)**
- Woman has been exposed to Hep C.
- Test for Hep C RNA to confirm infection.
- Report Hep C Ab (+) result & pregnancy to PHCP.

**If woman is Hep C RNA (+)**
- Woman is currently infected with Hep C and there is risk of vertical transmission to child!
- Refer her immediately to a Hep C specialist for access to treatment and cure.
- Inform the birthing hospital and pediatrician.
- Counsel the woman on behaviors to prevent Hep C transmission to others.

**If woman is Hep C RNA (-)**
- Woman is not currently infected with Hep C.
- Counsel her on behaviors to prevent reinfection.
- Repeat RNA testing if she has continued risk exposure during pregnancy.

### Pediatric Providers

**Test children of Hep C (+) women**

**2-12 months of age**
- Test for Hep C RNA and test again after 12 months of age, or at least 2 months after initial Hep C RNA test.
- Two tests are required regardless of result, as viral load can fluctuate in the first year of life.

**12 months of age or older**
- Test once for Hep C RNA.

**18 months of age or older**
- Test once for Hep C Ab; testing Hep C Ab before 18 months of age will reflect residual maternal Hep C Ab.
- If Hep C Ab (+), follow-up with a test for Hep C RNA to confirm infection.

If a child tests Hep C RNA (+) report to PHCP and refer child to a pediatric Hep C specialist!

### Quick Hep C Testing Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hep C Positive</th>
<th>Previously Exposed to Hep C</th>
<th>No Exposure to Hep C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hep C Ab (+) &amp; Hep C RNA (+)</td>
<td>Hep C Ab (+) &amp; Hep C RNA (-)</td>
<td>Hep C Ab (-) &amp; Hep C RNA (-)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 215-685-6849 OR VISIT: WWW.PHILLYHEPATITIS.ORG**
**Perinatal Hepatitis C**
A Guide for Prenatal Care and Pediatric Providers

**At-Risk Women**
Test for Hepatitis C Antibody (Hep C Ab)

- **Hep C Ab +**
  - Woman has been exposed to Hep C.
  - Test for Hep C RNA to confirm infection
  - **Hep C RNA (+)**
    - Woman is currently infected with Hep C and there is risk of vertical transmission to child.
    - Refer woman to Hep C specialist immediately.
  - **Hep C RNA (-)**
    - Woman is not currently infected with Hep C.
    - Repeat RNA testing if she is at continued risk of exposure to Hep C during pregnancy.
- **Hep C Ab -**
  - Woman has not been exposed to Hep C.
  - Repeat Hep C Ab testing if she is at continued risk of exposure to Hep C.

**Children of Hep C-Positive Women**
Test for Hep C Infection

**Pediatric Hep C Testing Recommendations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Child</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>OR 18 months of age or older</td>
<td>Test once for Hep C Ab. If Hep C Ab (+) test for Hep C RNA to confirm.</td>
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