



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

July 8, 2022

Dear Laboratory Director,

I am writing on behalf of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to request that your laboratory transmit all hepatitis C virus (HCV) ribonucleic acid (RNA) results for patients in California via electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) in the California Reportable Diseases Information Exchange (CalREDIE). CDPH understands your laboratory may need time to comply with this request and is available to support you.

Background and Rationale

Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver disease, yet many people remain unaware of their infection. Diagnosing current infection requires HCV antibody screening and, if reactive, HCV RNA testing. People diagnosed with hepatitis C infection can be linked to treatment and cured in 8-12 weeks using direct-acting antiviral HCV medications. Curing HCV infection lowers liver disease risk and prevents disease transmission.

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17 Section 2505 has required laboratories to report test results suggestive of HCV infection since 2007. ELR via CalREDIE began in 2013, enabling CDPH to publish [estimates of newly reported chronic HCV infections](#) in California and develop [public health interventions](#) to increase access to HCV testing and treatment. In 2019, CDPH amended [Title 17 CCR 2505](#) to require “the laboratory director or the laboratory director’s designee” to “also report negative laboratory test results or other laboratory findings when requested by [CDPH] or a local health officer.”

Collecting all HCV RNA test results, including non-positive (negative) results, would enable CDPH and local public health programs to determine whether patients have received complete diagnostic testing and whether their HCV infection has resolved or been cured. It would also enable identification of recent seroconversion, detection of viremic infections in people needing linkage to care and treatment, and estimation of disease prevalence. This information is needed to inform timely public health action.

Request

CDPH is requesting all positive and non-positive HCV RNA results associated with the Logical Observation Identifiers, Names, and Codes (LOINC) codes in the attached spreadsheet. At this time, CDPH is not requesting changes in reporting for other HCV-related tests. *Please continue to only send positive/reactive test results for HCV antibody and HCV genotype.*

CDPH STD Control Branch
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For more information related to hepatitis C testing, please contact Michael Abassian at Michael.Abassian@cdph.ca.gov and Rachel McLean at Rachel.McLean@cdph.ca.gov. For more information on ELR and any technical aspects of making this change, please contact Jill Meeseey and the CalREDIE ELR team at CalREDIEELR@cdph.ca.gov.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Your response will help improve the lives of Californians living with and at risk for hepatitis C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric Tang', written over a horizontal line.

Eric Tang, MD, MPH
Acting Chief, STD Control Branch