

Screening for hepatitis C

All patients who meet screening criteria must be screened for HCV infection using anti-HCV antibody rapid test that meets the minimum acceptable performance set by WHO.

Initial HCV screening	Follow up if Anti-HCV Negative
All new HIV+ patients upon enrolment	Yearly if repeated risk of exposure: SW, MSM, PWID, prisoners and partners of HCV positive patients (chronic HCV not treated yet)
All PrEP clients upon PrEP initiation	Yearly
All PWIDs enrolled in harm reduction program	Yearly

SW = sex workers, MSM = men who have sex with men, PWID = people who inject drugs

Before testing, all patients must be counseled and educated about HCV infection,

- its transmission and its consequences,
- the importance of treatment, if tested positive and
- how to prevent it if tested negative.

Note: Once anti-HCV antibody is positive, the patient should not be retested for it again.

HCV tested Negative

For patients who tested negative in anti-HCV Ab test, HCV post-test counseling should be provided, including measures to reduce risk of HCV infection.

HCV tested Positive

All anti-HCV positive patients should be provided with HCV-ab positive post-test counseling and scheduled for further investigations and follow-up.