

**TEST: HEPATITIS C VIRUS ANTIBODY (ANTI-HCV)**

**PRINCIPLE:**

The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is now known to be the causative agent for most, if not all, blood-borne non-A, non-B hepatitis (NANBH). Studies throughout the world indicate that HCV is transmitted through contaminated blood and blood products, through blood transfusions or through other close, personal contacts. The presence of anti-HCV indicates that an individual may have been infected with HCV and may be capable of transmitting HCV infection.<sup>1</sup>

**SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:**

2ml serum collected in a red top tube with no additive or in a serum separator tube (gel barrier). Serum should be separated from the clot as soon as possible to avoid hemolysis. Store at 2-8°C for 48 hours. Store frozen at -20°C if not tested within 48 hours. Avoid repeat freeze-thaw cycles.

**METHOD:** Enhanced Chemiluminescence

**REFERENCES:**

1. Choo Q-L, Weiner AJ, Overby LR, Kuo G, Houghton M. Hepatitis C virus: the major Causative agent of viral non-A, non-B hepatitis. *Br Med Bull.* 46: 423-441; (1990)
2. van der Poel CL, Cuypers HTM, Reesink HW et al. Confirmation of hepatitis C virusinfection by new four antigen recombinant immunoblot assay. *Lancet.* 337:317-319; 1991

**Normal Range: Non-reactive**

**Turnaround Time: 1 day**