

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Molecular Microbiology

Hepatitis C viral load

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): Blood should be collected in SST™ Serum Separation Tubes, BD Vacutainer® PPT™ Plasma Preparation Tubes or in sterile tubes using EDTA as the anticoagulant. Whole blood collected in EDTA tubes may be stored and/or transported for up to 24 hours at 2°C to 25°C. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

Specimen type: EDTA plasma and serum samples

Minimum volume of sample: 3.0 mL

Laboratory information

Measurement units: IU/mL

Dynamic range: The dynamic range for this assay is 15-1x10⁸ copies/mL

Turnaround time for provisional result (working days): 3 days

Turnaround time for final result (working days): 4 days

Clinical information

Clinical decision points: Not applicable

Factors known to significantly affect the results: Factors known to significantly affect the results: False negative results may occur for a variety of reasons, for example inappropriate timing of sample collection, inappropriate sample, presence of virus below the detectable limit of the assay. New and emerging variants may also occur which may not be detected by this assay. Towards the limit of detection of an assay sampling variation will result in lower reproducibility.

(Last updated March 2023)