

Aetna Better Health® of Kansas

CDC Guidelines for Hepatitis C Testing During Pregnancy & Prenatal Immunizations

According to the CDC, the rate of new Hepatitis C infections has increased considerably, more than 60% from 2015 to 2019. It was also reported that more than 63% of new cases were found in adults ranging from 20-39 years of age. In April of 2020 the CDC began recommending that pregnant persons be screened for hepatitis C, a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus or HCV, to prevent negative pregnancy outcomes associated with hepatitis C.

The facts:

- Hepatitis C can be transmitted from mother to baby both during pregnancy and during childbirth.
- Hepatitis C can be cured although curative treatment cannot begin until after the mother has given birth and completed breast feeding.
- Many people with hepatitis C have no symptoms and are unaware of their infection.
- Screening during pregnancy can connect both mother and baby to future care needs.

Test: Testing should include an HCV RNA Level and a Liver Enzyme test.

Report: Reporting to the local health department for assessment and monitoring of ongoing risk factors and additional testing and vaccination needs. Report positive screenings to the infants PCP so that follow up testing and treatment plans can be developed.

Prenatal immunizations: The CDC recommends both the Flu and Tdap vaccines be received during pregnancy. These vaccines are not only safe to receive during pregnancy, but they can also protect both mother and baby from flu-related complications and pertussis, or whooping cough.

Additional information can be found at: [Test for Hepatitis C During Every Pregnancy | CDC & Pregnancy Guidelines and Recommendations by Vaccine | CDC](#)

Questions?

If you have general questions about this communication, please contact our Provider Experience Department:

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