



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



Hepatitis C testing – Antenatal services

Building healthier lives

UHB is a no smoking Trust

University Hospitals Birmingham are providing opt-out hepatitis C testing to all women alongside routine hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis testing. Hepatitis C testing is a pilot project to support the World Health Organisation target to eliminate the hepatitis C virus by 2030.

Frequently asked questions

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus that spreads through contact with infected blood. The most common routes of transmission are from blood transfusions before 1991, medical and dental procedures in some parts of the world, tattooing or body piercing (where infection control procedures are poor) or from injecting drugs. Hepatitis C is a major global health problem. The level of infection in the UK is thought to be around 0.5% but this increases to as high as 15% in some countries.

Hepatitis C is known as a silent virus and it can go undiagnosed for years. However, up to 30% of people can progress to liver damage which can sometimes lead to liver cancer.

What results can I expect?

Negative results

A negative result means you are 'negative now'. It is still important to protect yourself from infection by avoiding transmission. Tell your midwife or GP if you think you may have been at risk of hepatitis C.

Positive results

It's important to know that hepatitis C has not been found to cause problems during pregnancy.

Hepatitis C can be cured with a simple course of tablets in around 8–12 weeks. You will be offered treatment after you have given birth and when it is safe to do so.

It is normal that your baby will come into contact with your blood when they are born. Because of this, the virus could be passed onto them; the risk of transmission is approximately 4–8%. We will offer simple testing for your baby, along with anyone else that may need testing (for example: your partner, any other children and close family members).

There is no vaccination against hepatitis C. Children with hepatitis C will be supported by our specialist teams.

When will I get my hepatitis C result?

If your result is negative your midwife will discuss it with you at or before your next antenatal appointment. It will also be recorded in your hand held maternity notes.

If you are positive for hepatitis C a specialist midwife will contact you to arrange an appointment within 10 days. The midwife will discuss the result and refer you to the Viral Hepatitis Team for further assessment.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about hepatitis C testing, please contact:

Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Antenatal Clinic: **0121 424 0730**

Good Hope Hospital Antenatal Clinic:
0121 424 9622

Solihull Hospital Antenatal Clinic:
0121 424 4382

Please use the space below to write down any questions you may have and bring this with you to your next appointment.

How did we do?

If you have recently used our services we'd love to hear about your experience. Please scan the QR code or follow the link to share your feedback to help us improve our services.



Thank you.

www.uhb.nhs.uk/fft

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