

Hepatitis B and C testing overview

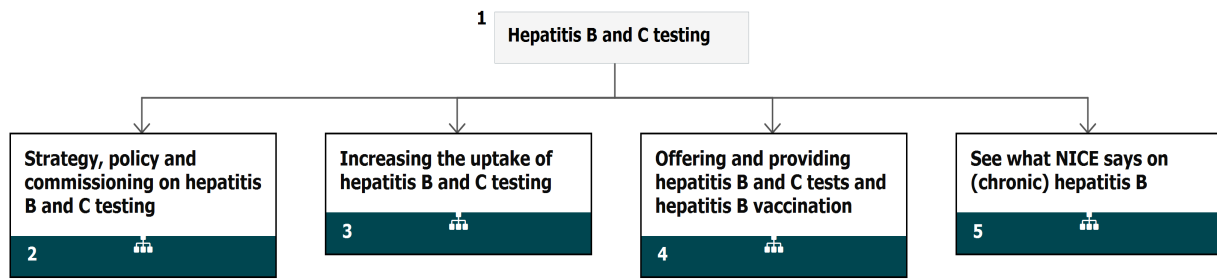
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/hepatitis-b-and-c-testing>

NICE Pathway last updated: 10 August 2017

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Hepatitis B and C testing

No additional information

2 Strategy, policy and commissioning on hepatitis B and C testing

[See Hepatitis B and C testing / Strategy, policy and commissioning on hepatitis B and C testing](#)

3 Increasing the uptake of hepatitis B and C testing

[See Hepatitis B and C testing / Increasing the uptake of hepatitis B and C testing](#)

4 Offering and providing hepatitis B and C tests and hepatitis B vaccination

[See Hepatitis B and C testing / Offering and providing hepatitis B and C tests and hepatitis B vaccination](#)

5 See what NICE says on (chronic) hepatitis B

[See Hepatitis B \(chronic\) / Hepatitis B \(chronic\) overview](#)

Close contacts

The people in close contact with someone infected with hepatitis B or C, where there is a risk of transmitting the infection (through blood or body fluids). This could include their family members, close friends, household contacts or sexual partners.

Continuity of care

continuation of treatment and referral for people moving in, out or between prisons

Immigration removal centre

In addition to housing people who remain in the UK illegally, immigration removal centres house people who are waiting for their immigration claims to be resolved or to have their identities established. Detainees are entitled to primary healthcare facilities during their stay, equivalent to those available in the community.

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In-reach services

a model of prison-based healthcare provision in which healthcare services are brought into the prison, instead of the prisoner being taken out to the healthcare service (for example, to a hospital outpatient unit)

Joint strategic needs assessment

a process that identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population, leading to agreed commissioning priorities that aim to improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities

Locally enhanced services

additional services provided by GPs, designed to meet specific local health needs

Medical hold

a process to ensure prisoners are not transferred until they are medically fit

Past infection

Hepatitis B and C can be cleared by the body's own immune system. An antibody test determines whether a person has ever been infected with hepatitis in the past. If the test is positive further tests are carried out to establish whether the virus is still present in the body.

Peer

Peers are members of the target population who have been diagnosed with hepatitis B or C. They may be recruited and supported to communicate health messages, including promoting testing and treatment, assist with contact tracing or testing, and to offer people support during testing and treatment.

PCR

polymerase chain reaction

Prison

Her Majesty's prison establishments, including young offender institutions

Prisons

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Sexual contact

Intimate contact with others, including kissing and oral, anal, and vaginal intercourse. Hepatitis B is transmitted by direct contact with infected blood. However, it can also be transmitted by contact with semen, vaginal fluids and other body fluids. Hepatitis C is primarily transmitted by contact with infected blood.

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to

have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.