

# HEPATITIS C VIRUS PRE- AND POST-TEST CHECKLISTS

**Confidential** hepatitis C Virus (HCV) pre- and post-test discussions can significantly affect how the client responds to testing and test results. When **using simple language** and individualized to a client's needs, these discussions: provide important preventive and health promotion information, enable better disease management, and encourage continued engagement with health and social care.

## HCV Antibody Pre-test Discussion Checklist

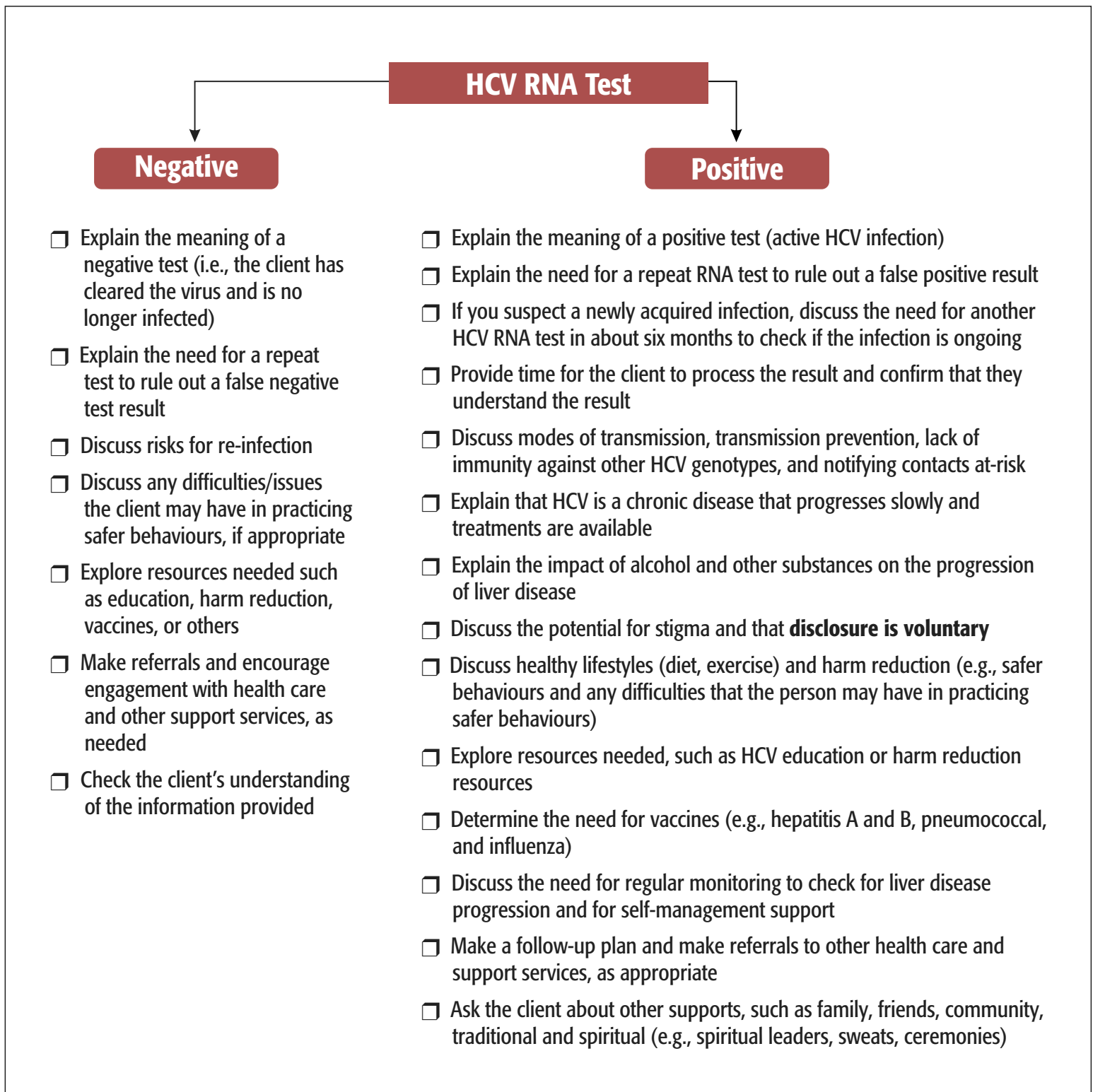
- Discuss the reasons for the HCV test (client or provider initiated), such as modes of transmission
- Discuss impact of possible positive result for client and others, including transmission prevention, and confidentiality and disclosure issues
- Provide information about the testing process, including:
  - an explanation of the HCV antibody test, including window period and the need for HCV RNA test (HCV-PCR) if the antibody test is positive
  - the time it takes for results to become available
- Waiting for test results can be challenging. Discuss supports the client might need to access during the waiting period
- Explain that Public Health receives positive test results and may contact client
- Discuss a follow-up plan to obtain results and vaccines available for those at-risk/infected
- Check the client's understanding of the information provided
- Confirm if the client is now ready to proceed with testing

## HCV Antibody Post-test Discussion Checklists



- Explain the meaning of a negative test result and confirm client understanding
  - Discuss indications for further testing, considering window periods, ongoing risk behaviours, or being immune compromised. Make a follow-up plan, if applicable
  - For those at-risk, explore resources needed such as education, harm reduction, vaccines, social and other resources, as appropriate
  - Make referrals and encourage engagement with health care and other support services, as needed
- Receiving a diagnosis of HCV is complex and can be life changing. It is important to convey the test results and relevant information in a positive and culturally safe way that encourages engagement and facilitates follow-up planning with the client.*
- Explain the meaning of a positive test result (i.e., the client has been exposed to hepatitis C)
  - Provide time for the client to process the result and confirm client's understanding
  - Explain the need for an HCV RNA test to determine if the viral infection is still active
  - Discuss potential for stigma and that **disclosure is voluntary**
  - Discuss modes of transmission, harm reduction, vaccines, social and other resources, as appropriate
  - Make a follow-up plan, make referrals, and encourage engagement with other health care and support services, as needed

# HCV RNA Post-test Discussion Checklists



For more information, visit [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca) and type "Attendance Project" in the search box.

This resource was created by the Attendance for Hepatitis C Care Project team. It would not have been possible without the valuable contributions from individuals affected by hepatitis C and service providers and representatives from First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations across Canada, support from the University of British Columbia and the BC Centre for Disease Control, and funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada.