

Investigation of Potential Hepatitis C Virus Exposure Associated with Hays Medical Center, October 24, 2012

Laboratory testing for this investigation is a complex, multi-stage process. Patients are first screened for antibodies to the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Those with a positive antibody test are then tested to determine whether or not they have an active HCV infection. Patients with an active infection are then tested to determine the genotype and subtype of HCV, which helps guide patient care. Finally, patients with an active infection are tested to determine if their infection is genetically related to other patients in New Hampshire and at Hays Medical Center in association with this outbreak.

This investigation is ongoing, and all information provided should be considered preliminary.

Results:

Number of persons potentially exposed	474
Number of persons available for testing ¹	416
Number of persons with who have submitted specimens ²	391
Testing results to date	
Number of persons with no evidence of past or present HCV infection (anti-HCV negative result) ³	374
Number of persons with HCV infection genetically closely related to the outbreak ⁴	6

¹ Excludes at least 58 patients identified as deceased from various causes prior to current notification process and therefore not available for new tests.

² Includes patients whose tests are still in process or have not completed epidemiologic investigations. Includes patients being tested through KHEL or private laboratory.

³ Includes patients who have been tested through KHEL or private laboratory.

⁴ Includes only patients whose molecular testing results indicate they are closely related to the outbreak based on quasispecies analysis through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and whose epidemiologic investigations have been completed.