

Changes in Laboratory Testing Coverage for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, and Serum Clozapine Level

In accordance with the newest guidelines,¹ effective **December 1, 2019**, Community Behavioral Health (CBH) will make changes to its laboratory testing coverage for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and serum clozapine concentration. Although this Bulletin specifically pertains to all CBH-contracted laboratories, all providers requesting laboratory tests should be aware of these changes, particularly providers offering clozapine-related services and substance use treatment.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Test

CBH will discontinue coverage of third-generation HIV testing and add a new Level of Care (LOC) for fourth-generation HIV testing to active lab contracts. The fourth-generation HIV test detects HIV in the blood earlier than the previous testing approach, which is critical as many new infections are transmitted in the earliest (acute) stage of infection.

The LOC supporting the third-generation HIV test, 600-93, will be end-dated on provider contracts effective November 30, 2019. A new LOC for the fourth-generation HIV test, 600-136, will be added effective December 1, 2019. Prior authorization is not required for the new LOC. Additional information regarding LOC 600-136 is listed below.

New LOC	CPT Code	CPT Code Description
600-136	87389	Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique, qualitative or semi-quantitative, multiple step method, HIV-1 antigen(s) with HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies, single result

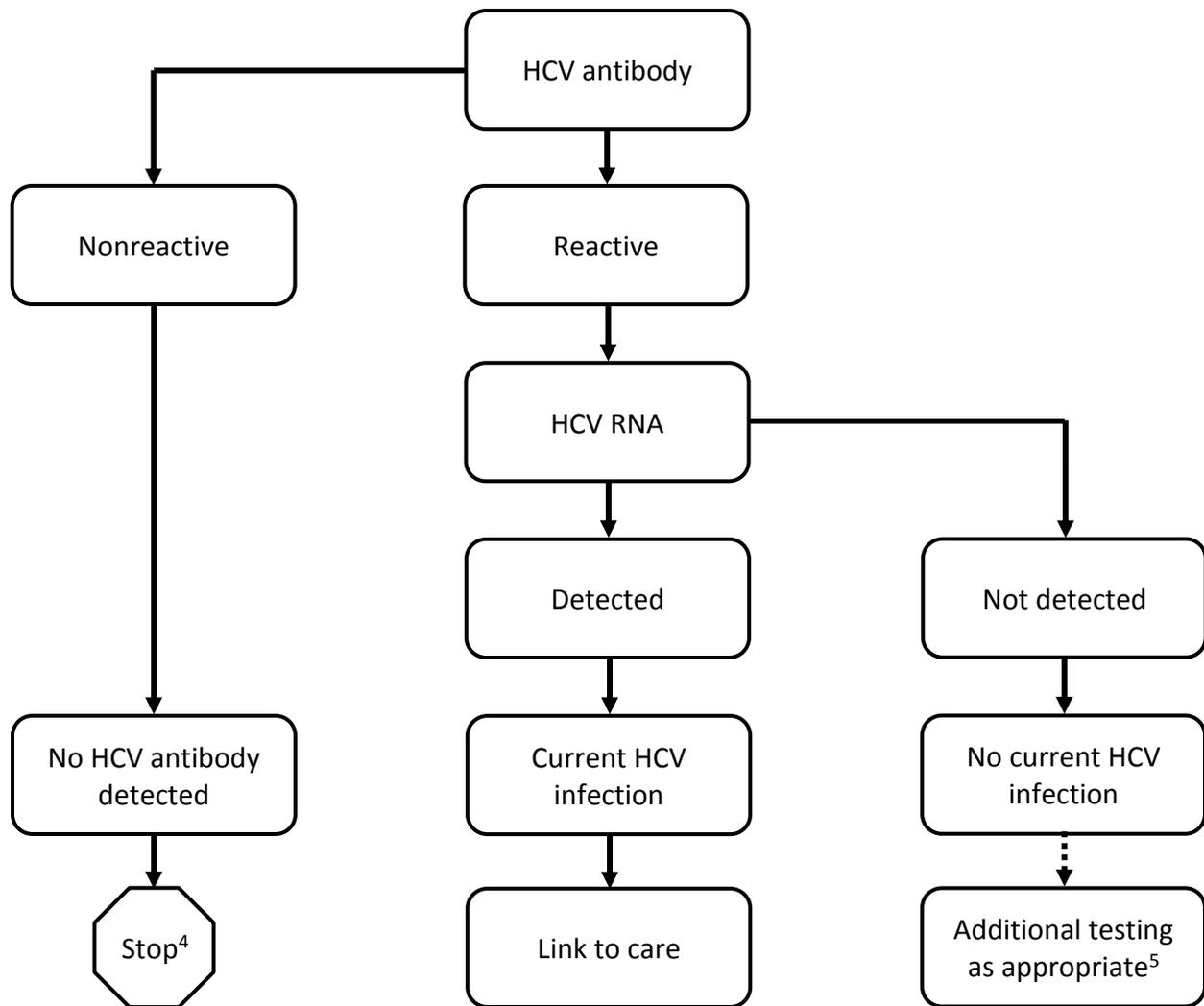
Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Testing

Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation for HCV testing,² CBH will add a new LOC for HCV testing, LOC 600-137, to active lab contracts effective December 1, 2019. This new LOC is in addition to LOC 600-110 and should be used as a follow-up HCV confirmatory test for those with a reactive HCV antibody. On the following page is the recommended testing sequence for identifying current HCV infection.³

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). Testing for HCV Infection: An Update of Guidance for Clinicians and Laboratorians. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Volume 62*.



Prior authorization is not required for the new LOC. Additional information regarding LOC 600-137 is listed below.

LOC	CPT Code	CPT Code Description
600-137	87521	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Hepatitis C, amplified probe technique, includes reverse prescription when performed

⁴ For persons who might have been exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, testing for HCV RNA or follow-up testing for HCV antibody is recommended. For persons who are immunocompromised, testing for HCV RNA can be considered.

⁵ To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen.

Serum Clozapine Level Testing

CBH will add a new LOC for serum clozapine level testing, LOC 600-138, to active lab contracts effective December 1, 2019. Prior authorization is not required for the new LOC. Additional information regarding LOC 600-138 is listed below.

LOC	CPT Code	CPT Code Description
600-138	80159	Clozapine

Questions

Questions regarding this Bulletin may be directed to your assigned Provider Relations Representative.