

Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Testing Before Initiating Treatment

*This measure is to be reported for all patients aged 18 years and older with chronic hepatitis C — a minimum of **once** per reporting period. This measure addresses a process that must occur prior to initiating antiviral treatment and should also be reported with Measure #85: HCV Genotype Testing Prior to Treatment.*

Measure description

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C who are receiving antiviral treatment for whom quantitative HCV RNA testing was performed within 6 months prior to initiation of antiviral treatment

What will you need to report for each patient with chronic hepatitis C for this measure?

If you select this measure for reporting, you will report:

- Whether or not the patient is receiving antiviral treatment for hepatitis C

If the patient is receiving antiviral treatment for hepatitis C, you will then need to report:

- Whether or not you performed RNA testing within 6 months prior to initiation of antiviral treatment

What if this process or outcome of care is not appropriate for your patient?

There may be times when it is not appropriate to order or perform HCV RNA testing within 6 months prior to initiation of treatment, due to:

- Medical reasons (eg, patient is first seen by physician after initiation of treatment, not indicated, contraindicated, other medical reason)

In these cases, you will need to indicate that the medical reason applies, and specify the reason on the worksheet and in the medical chart. The office/billing staff will then report a code with a modifier that represents these valid reasons (also called exclusions).