4.1 QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – MATERNAL HEPATITIS C

Maternal HCV Antibody and / or HCV RNA Positive

Breastfeeding

Formula feeding

Evidence of nipple damage or bleeding?

No

Yes

Breastfeeding indicated

Express and discard breast milk until healed

GP referral letter for follow-up
Ensure infant receives HBV Vaccine at birth

Delayed Screening for HCV (Recommended action)
  • Wait until infant 18 months
  • Test HCV Antibodies

Early Screening for HCV (Not recommended action)
  • Early passive maternal antibody transfer potentially renders early testing difficult to interpret
  • Early screening suggested only if absolutely necessary (e.g. extreme parental anxiety)
  • Test HCV RNA between 2-6 months of age
  • Perform 2 separate tests 3-4 months apart to confirm diagnosis