



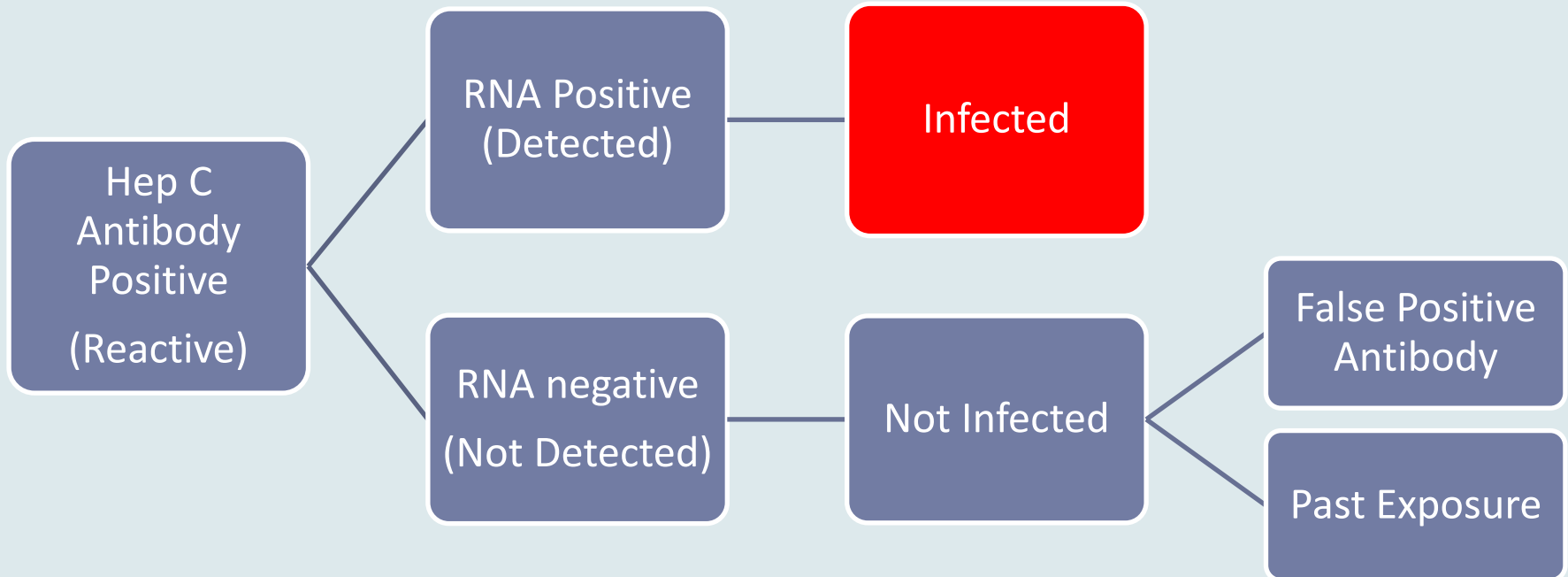
Hepatitis C – RNA Reflex Testing

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Hep C Testing



Hep C RNA Testing

- National guidelines recommend that all patients with a positive hep C antibody test undergo hep C RNA testing to determine their infection status
- With better treatment regimens increasingly available, proper diagnostics are important for providers to make appropriate recommendations and for patients to make informed decisions

Enhanced Hep C Surveillance – RNA test status

- 1/3 of the hep C antibody positive patients didn't have the hep C RNA testing to determine their infection status
- Reasons RNA not done
 - Patient didn't return for follow-up
 - Facility/Provider doesn't do RNA
 - Lack of provider awareness about RNA testing
 - Insurance issues

Reference: McGibbon et al. Half a diagnosis: gap in confirming infection among hepatitis C antibody-positive patients. *Am J Med.* 2013 Aug;126(8):718-22.

Hepatitis C Reflex Tests

- Hep C Reflex tests can help solve the problem of patients not getting the necessary RNA testing
 - Laboratory does the hepatitis C antibody test, and if the result is positive, the laboratory immediately does a quantitative RNA test on the same specimen.
 - not useful for sites doing rapid tests

Hepatitis C Reflex Tests Now Available from Commercial Labs

- Hep C RNA reflex test provides the information needed to determine hepatitis C infection status in one step,
 - Patient does not have to return for a second blood draw. Only one tube of blood is needed.
 - For Quest (test # 91438X), www.questdiagnostics.com
 - For LabCorp (test # 144028), www.labcorp.com
 - For BioReference (test # B125-6), www.bioreference.com

** Information published in PCIP newsletter, NYCHepBC newsletter, Hep C Task Force Website, Facebook (Liver Health), Twitter (Liver Health), and Ryan White newsletter **

Barriers to RNA Testing

- Hep C RNA tests are expensive
 - For some patients who are Hep C antibody positive but lack insurance coverage
- Not every facility/provider offers RNA testing
 - Substance abuse/detox
 - Jail/Prison

Questions

- Has your site used reflex testing?
- Why or why not?
- Experiences? (good or bad)

THANK YOU!

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