Start with an antibody test

An antibody is produced by your immune system when it detects a harmful substance like bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses. Think of an antibody like an army made by your immune system specific to a harmful substance. A Hepatitis C antibody test, looks for an antibody to the Hepatitis C Virus to check if you have ever been infected with Hepatitis C.

If this test is positive or comes back with a number, it means the Hepatitis C Virus is present in your blood and you have active Hepatitis C.

Viral Load or RNA Test

This test will look for the genetic material (RNA) of the Hepatitis C Virus. This test shows whether or not the virus is actively present in your blood.

If this test comes back undetectable or negative, you do not have Hepatitis C—you have cleared the virus and cannot spread it to anyone.

Your Health Care Provider will then need to do other tests to determine the best treatment for you. Your provider will look at these tests, your medical history, and current medical conditions to determine the best approach to treatment for you. Some of the additional tests done could include...

- Genotype Test
- Liver Function Tests
- Fibroscan, Ultrasound, or Liver Biopsy