



## **Section X: Choosing testing options for hepatitis C infection**

**We will show you different types of testing options for hepatitis C and then ask you which one you would choose. Some of the testing methods described are not yet currently available or may not be provided in the way that is described at the moment, but we would like you to imagine that they were available today.**

**It is important that you answer in a way you would if you were actually choosing the testing option. If you wouldn't choose any of the testing options that we show you, please select "None."**

### **What kind of testing options are there for hepatitis C RNA testing?**

There are several different testing options currently available in Australia.

1. Usual test (blood sample from vein, results in 1-2 weeks)
2. Dried blood spot testing (blood sample from finger, results in 1-2 weeks)
3. Point of care test (blood sample from finger, results within an hour)

### **We will ask you about 5 simplified testing features in our survey.**

These include:

1. How the sample is collected?
2. Who collects the sample?
3. Where is the sample collected?
4. How long it takes to receive the results of the test?
5. How accurate is the test?

#### **1. How the sample is collected?**

You can have a hepatitis C RNA test performed in a range of ways. A sample can be collected through standard of care venepuncture (blood sample from your vein) or from a finger-stick (blood sample from finger).

#### **2. Who collects the sample?**

You can have a test collected by a range of different providers, including a healthcare worker, needle and syringe program worker, or a peer.

#### **3. Where is the sample collected?**

Testing can be performed at a range of different settings, including your regular doctor (general practitioner/GP), hospital, drug treatment clinic, or at a needle and syringe program.

#### **4. How long it takes to receive the results of the test?**



The time to receive a result varies from 1-2 weeks for tests that need to be sent to a laboratory (e.g. venepuncture or dried-blood-spot testing) to less than one hour with new point-of-care tests.

## **5. How accurate is the test?**

The accuracy of hepatitis C tests varies, but most tests are very accurate (more than 95 of 100 tests performed are correct).

**Below are all possible options for each feature:**

### **1. How is the sample collected?**

#### ***Option 1:***

- A blood sample is collected from your vein

#### ***Option 2:***

- A blood sample is collected from a finger-stick

### **2. Who collects the sample?**

#### ***Option 1:***

- Healthcare worker

#### ***Option 2:***

- Needle and syringe program worker

#### ***Option 3:***

- Peer worker

### **3. Where is the sample collected?**

#### ***Option 1:***

- Your usual regular doctor (general practitioner or family doctor)

#### ***Option 2:***

- Drug treatment clinic

#### ***Option 3:***

- Needle and syringe program

### **4. How long it takes to receive the results of the test?**

#### ***Option 1:***



- One to two weeks

**Option 2:**

- One hour

**5. How accurate is the test?**

**Option 1:**

- 95 of 100 tests are correct

**Option 2:**

- 99 of 100 tests are correct

The survey will randomly combine the options for each feature. Many of the combinations do not exist as real products yet, but we ask that you imagine that they were available. Choose the best you can, in a way you would if you were actually choosing the test you prefer.

It may be repetitive, but it helps us measure your answers. If you wouldn't choose any of the testing options that we show you, please select 'None'.

Here is an example task:

Option 1 is a theoretical test with some of these features and Option 2 is a theoretical test with different features. Which option would you most likely choose for your own testing? If you do not like either of these options, please select 'None'.

NOTE: Each participant will then be given ten randomly generated pairs of testing scenarios that involve random selections from each of the attributes above. They are asked to choose which they prefer of each pair (or if they would prefer neither).

**HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES**

***Theoretical testing scenario 1***

**How is the sample collected?**

- A blood sample is collected from your vein

**Who collects the sample?**

- Healthcare worker

**Where is the sample collected?**



- Drug treatment clinic

**How long it takes to receive the results of the test?**

- One to two weeks

**How accurate is the test?**

- 99 of 100 tests are correct

***Theoretical testing scenario 2***

**How is the sample collected?**

- A blood sample is collected from a finger-stick

**Who collects the sample?**

- Healthcare worker

**Where is the sample collected?**

- Needle and syringe program worker

**How long it takes to receive the results of the test?**

- One hour

**How accurate is the test?**

- 99 of 100 tests are correct

**Are there any general comments you would like to make about testing, or anything else?**