Maternal Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Quick Reference Guide

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