



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

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October 26, 2017

Dear Laboratory Provider:

We are writing to notify you of a recent amendment to the New York City Health Code that came into effect on October 20, 2017, and that impacts laboratory testing and reporting requirements. An up-to-date version of the Health Code can be found on the NYC Rules website, at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/codified-rules>.

Section §13.03(b)(3) of the NYC Health Code has been amended to require laboratories to routinely perform a confirmatory RNA hepatitis C virus (HCV) test when there is a positive HCV antibody test result. The confirmatory RNA test must be performed on the same specimen or a second specimen collected at the same time as the initial specimen, and must be initiated, or the specimen forwarded to another laboratory for that purpose, within 72 hours of obtaining the positive antibody test result.

An RNA test is required to establish whether the patient is currently infected with HCV, and is a prerequisite to treatment. Routine performance of a confirmatory RNA test is aligned with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and US Preventative Services Task Force guidelines and will ensure that patients are promptly treated for HCV and that they receive important related care, such as regular liver cancer screening as indicated.

All reports of laboratory tests must be made via the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS).

Any questions regarding these requirements should be directed to the Bureau of Communicable Diseases at 347-396-2600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetre C. Daskalakis'.

Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner