FIGURE 5: Evaluation of Hepatitis C Virus Exposure Risk and Recommended Follow-Up

Evaluation of HCV exposure risk

Source is known to be HCV-positive or is not available

- Check the exposed individual's HCV RNA and ALT at baseline and at weeks 4, 12, and 24 post-exposure; if abnormal, evaluate for treatment [a].

Source is available: Test for HCV antibody.

- Source is HCV antibody positive
  - Check source HCV RNA
  - HCV RNA positive
    - Check the exposed individual's HCV RNA and ALT at 4, 12, and 24 weeks post-exposure; if abnormal, evaluate for treatment [a].
  - HCV RNA negative
    - No follow-up is needed for the exposed individual. Consider re-testing HCV RNA if the exposed individual has abnormal AST or ALT or if the source was recently exposed or treated for HCV infection.

- Source is HCV antibody negative
  - Risk to source and exposed individual is high if source had a possible HCV exposure within the past 6 months or is immunocompromised and has risk factors for HCV.
  - Risk is low if source has had no high-risk exposures to HCV within the past 6 months.

Abbreviations: ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase.

a. If at any time the serum ALT level is elevated, repeat HCV RNA testing to evaluate for acute HCV infection. If HCV infection is identified, refer to a clinician with experience in treating HCV for medical management. See the NYSDOH AIDS Institute guideline Treatment of Chronic HCV with Direct-Acting Antivirals.