

EASY C FACTS

Viral Load Test

If you have hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short), your doctor will take a lot of blood tests to help manage your health more effectively. One test, called the viral load test, will tell you if you have HCV in your body and how much of the virus is in you. When you have HCV it just doesn't stay in your liver, but it can also be found in your blood. HCV is very active and makes lots of copies of itself. The viral load test is the only way to measure how much HCV is inside you.

It Is Important to Remember...

- ◆ The viral load will tell you if you have the virus in your body.
- ◆ The viral load tell you if treatment is working and how long some people with HCV need to be treated.
- ◆ What the viral load **doesn't** tell you is how much damage is occurring in the liver.

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