

SCOPE STATEMENT FOR HERC COVERAGE GUIDANCE

NONINVASIVE TESTING FOR LIVER FIBROSIS IN CHRONIC HEPATITIS C INFECTION

Population description	Adults and children with chronic hepatitis C infection <i>Population scoping notes: None</i>
Intervention(s)	Non-invasive tests of liver fibrosis (e.g., acoustic radiation force impulse imaging, transient elastography, magnetic resonance elastography, biochemical tests with predictive algorithms) <i>Intervention exclusions: None</i>
Comparator(s)	Liver biopsy, other interventions listed above
Outcome(s) (up to five)	Critical: Change in treatment plan (especially decision to begin antiviral therapy), quality of life, need for liver biopsy Important: Testing-related adverse events <i>Considered but not selected for GRADE Table: None</i>
Key questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the comparative effectiveness of noninvasive tests for the diagnosis and management of hepatic fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis C?2. Does the comparative effectiveness of non-invasive tests of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis C vary based on:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Duration of infectionb. Fibrosis scorec. Body habitusd. Operator/interpreter training or experiencee. Co-existence of other etiologies of liver disease (e.g., non-alcoholic steatohepatitis)3. What are the comparative diagnostic operating characteristics of tests of liver fibrosis?4. What is the evidence for the timing of the initial testing for fibrosis and interval for subsequent reassessment of fibrosis.