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### **Hepatitis B and C Real-time PCR**

#### **Sample collection / storage / transport**

- 5 ml of blood sample collected into a disposable EDTA tube should be sent to MRI in ice (4<sup>0</sup>C) as early as possible (maximum delay – 48 hours)
- The sample should be stored at 4<sup>0</sup>C until transport
- Sample collection can be conducted at MRI for patients between 8 am – 12 pm on week days (Monday to Friday)

#### **Important points**

- Hepatitis B/ C real-time PCR is an expensive test and should be ordered only when there is a real indication.
- The test should always be authorized by a Consultant.
- Serology results should always be available before requesting this test (Special situations should be discussed with the Consultant Virologist).
- 2 ml of blood should be sent in a plain bottle for the confirmation of HCV Ab result along with the sample for HCV PCR.