Hepatitis C

Triage, i.e. determining which lab reports to investigate (Paper labs treated same as ELRs)

 Investigate those with elevated liver enzymes reported

 Harris County working on algorithm using SQL

 Ages cut-offs used by some LHDs

 Less than or equal to 30 years old

 Less than 25 yo

Less than 20 yo

 Less than 18 yo

 Most cut-offs would miss high risk groups (i.e. IV drug users)

Other priorities

 PCR positive high priority

 Confirmation with antibody tests not requested

 Occupational exposures

Use of NEDSS

Reviews of NEDSS queues are not reliable since labs are swept after 48 hours. Alternatively, regularly run a line list for HCV labs not associated with an investigation.

If no previous positives are found in NEDSS, called the physician.

Other health department practices and observations

Most health departments do not have a designated hepatitis C epidemiologists.

Difficult to follow up with the physician and specialists

Difficult to follow up with the case

Needs to be coordinated with care provision

 HIV/STD

 Indigent care

Considerations in transferring to HIV/STD/viral hepatitis

Look at data to determine workload

May not have HIV/STD program at LHD