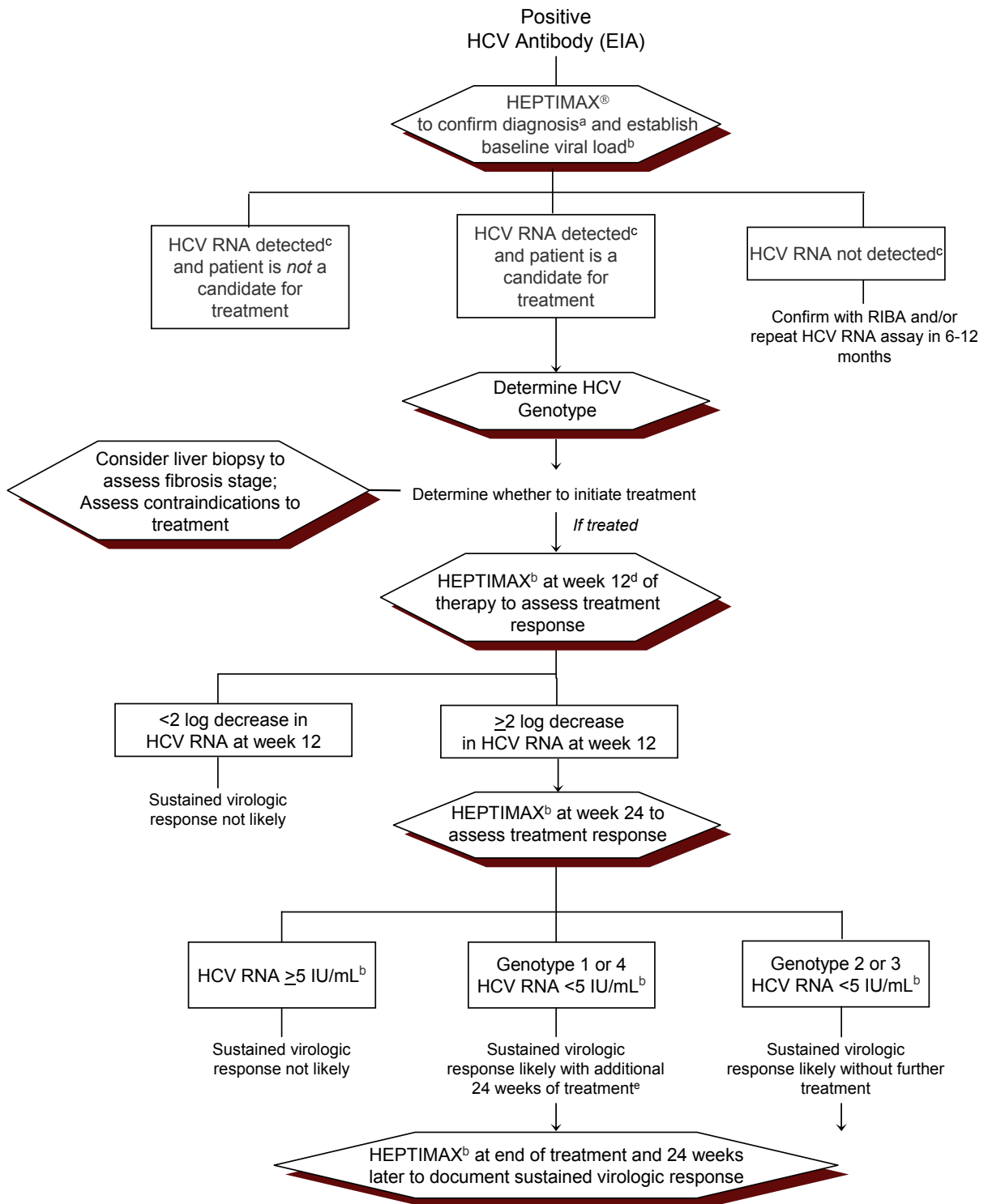


Figure. HCV Molecular Testing Algorithm



^a Other nucleic acid tests (NATs) may be substituted to confirm diagnosis. Recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA) may also be used. A positive EIA result with a signal to cutoff ratio of ≥ 8.0 does not require confirmation, but baseline viral load should be established with a quantitative HCV RNA assay.

^b Other nucleic acid tests (NATs) may be substituted to assess viral load.

^c The lower limit of quantitation of the HEPTIMAX assay is 5 IU/mL.

^d Viral load testing at 4 weeks helps predict treatment response and may guide treatment duration.^{1,2}

^e Previously untreated genotype 1 patients who have slow virologic response (HCV RNA detectable at 12 weeks, undetectable at 24 weeks) but tolerate therapy well may benefit from an additional 24 weeks of treatment beyond the standard 48 weeks.²

This algorithm is intended to assist in test selection and management of individuals infected with hepatitis C virus and is based in part on previous recommendations and primary literature.¹⁻⁹