Legacy Laboratory Services

Quicker Report Times for Hepatitis Testing

February 2011

On February 15, 2011, hepatitis testing will be performed on an automated platform resulting in faster reporting times and simplified panels. The new assays have 100% correlation with previous methods. The following Hepatitis tests are available as individually ordered tests.

- Hepatitis A Antibody, Total (reflexed to IgM, if indicated)
- Hepatitis B Core Antibody, Total (reflexed to IgM, if indicated)
- Hepatitis B Surface Antibody
- Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (reflexed to confirmation, if indicated)
- Hepatitis C Antibody, Total

The current panels will be replaced with two new panels:

New hepatitis panels are available.

Hepatitis Acute Panel	Hepatitis Chronic Panel
HEP ACUTE	**HEP CHRONIC**
Hepatitis A Antibody, IgM	Hepatitis B Core Antibody, Total (reflexed to IgM if indicated)
Hepatitis B Core Antibody, IgM	Hepatitis B Surface Antibody
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (reflexed to confirmation if indicated)	Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (reflexed to confirmation if indicated)
Hepatitis C Antibody, Total	Hepatitis C Antibody, Total

Specimens with a positive Hepatitis C Antibody result will no longer be automatically reflexed to RIBA testing. If further testing is required to confirm Hepatitis C Antibody results, please contact client services. The current CDC guidelines for Hepatitis C diagnosis recommends:[1,2]

- High-positive HCV screens should be confirmed with a viral load.
- Low-positive HCV screens should be confirmed with a RIBA test.
- Past infection can be confirmed in PCR-negative (recovered) patients with a RIBA test.

Specimen requirements are listed in Table I and II below or on the website: http://www.legacyhealth.org/body_lab.cfm?id=505

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LEGACY HEALTH

Collection Guidelines for Legacy Laboratory Services

Table I: Specimen Requirements for Individual Hepatitis Tests

		Hepatitis A Antibody, Total (reflexed to IgM if indicated)	Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	Hepatitis B Core Antibody, Total (reflexed to IgM if indicated)	Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (reflexed to Confirmation if indicated)	Hepatitis C Antibody, Total
Test Mnemonic		**HEP A AB**	**HEP B SAB**	**HEP B CORE**	**HEP B SAG**	**HEP C AB**
Collect		Serum, one 5.0 mL gold (SST) or 7.0 mL red top tube.				
Handling		Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells within **2** hours of collection.		Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells within **8** hours of collection.		
Preferred Volume		1.0 mL	1.0 mL	1.0 mL	1.0 mL	1.0 mL
Minimum Volume		0.6 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.7 mL	0.2 mL
Transport		Refrigerated (2-8°C). If the specimen will be delayed more than **48** hours, freeze serum at ≤ -20C.	Refrigerated (2-8°C). If the specimen will be delayed more than **72** hours, freeze serum at ≤ -20C.	Refrigerated (2-8°C). If the specimen will be delayed more than **48** hours, freeze serum at ≤ -20C.	Refrigerated (2-8°C).	
Rejection Criteria		Grossly hemolyzed specimens. Plasma will not be accepted. Do not use specimens with obvious microbial contamination.				
Stability - after separation from cells	**Ambient (20-25°C)**	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours
	Refrigerated (2-8°C)	48 hours	72 hours	48 hours	14 days	7 days
	Frozen (≤ -20°C)	6 months	2 months	2 months	2 months	2 months
Method		Chemiluminescent Immunoassay by Siemens Advia Centaur				

Table II: Specimen Requirements for New Hepatitis Panels

		Hepatitis Acute Panel	Hepatitis Chronic Panel
Test Mnemonic		**HEP ACUTE**	**HEP CHRONIC**
Collect		Serum, one 5.0 mL gold (SST) or 7.0 mL red top tube.	
Handling		Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells within **2** hours of collection.	
Preferred Volume		3.0 mL	4.0 mL
Minimum Volume		1.5 mL	2.5 mL
Transport		Refrigerated (2-8°C). If the specimen will be delayed more than **48** hours, freeze serum at ≤ -20°C.	
Rejection Criteria		Grossly hemolyzed specimens. Plasma will not be accepted. Do not use specimens with obvious microbial contamination.	
Stability - after separation from cells	**Ambient (20-25°C)**	8 hours	
	Refrigerated (2-8°C)	48 hours	
	Frozen (≤ -20°C)	2 months	
Method		Chemiluminescent Immunoassay by Siemens Advia Centaur	

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Guidelines for laboratory testing and result reporting of antibody to Hepatitis C virus. MMWR 2003; 52 (RR-3): 1-13.

2. Chapko MK, et al., Cost Effectiveness of testing strategies for Chronic Hepatitis C, *Am Jour Gast* 2005; 100: 607-615.