



Clinical Details as a Pre-Requisite for Infectious Serology Testing

From 30th May 2016, all Infectious Serology requests will require accompanying clinical details in order for testing to proceed.

Background

Please refer to previous clinical updates in [October 2015](#) and [April 2016](#). Clinical details for Infectious serology tests are considered extremely important for the following reasons:

- To ensure that the correct tests are being performed.
- To allow interpretation of borderline results.
- To allow suggestion of further tests.
- To ensure that the test is performed for diagnostic reasons.

Procedure

All request forms containing requests for infectious serology will be viewed by one of the Infectious serology scientists or Clinical Microbiologists. Where appropriate clinical details are not included, the sample will be stored for 72hrs. A comment will go back immediately to the requestor seeking clinical details so that testing can proceed.

What is regarded as appropriate clinical details will be interpreted very leniently. However requests such as *“Routine”* or *“Check-up”* will not be regarded as sufficient.

Tests Affected

Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Toxoplasmosis

Leptospirosis

Streptococcal titres (ASOT & anti-DNaseB)

HIV

Syphilis

Hepatitis A, B and C

Helicobacter pylori

Brucellosis

Exceptions

Clinical details are not expected where the testing is highly protocolised or where implementation of such a policy would be logistically very difficult.

For example:

Hepatitis Foundation screening protocols

Haemodialysis screening protocols

Antenatal Screens

Immigration medicals

Patient paid requests

Tests that are referred on to Reference Labs (“Sendaway tests”)

Prisoners (Hepatitis B, C and HIV only)

Sexual Health Clinics/Screens (Syphilis, HIV, hepatitis B & C only)

Adding on Clinical Details

If appropriate clinical details have not been provided on the request form, this will be made clear in the report returned to the requestor. Please use one of the methods below to communicate appropriate clinical details to the Immunology department at Pathlab Waikato.

1. **Email:** Refer to Clinical Update [“Test Adds by Email”](#), April 2016. The email address is plw.testadd@pathlab.co.nz
2. **Fax:** send to 078580879.

Provided this relevant information is received within the 72hrs then the associated tests will be completed and reported.

Follow Up

We plan to audit the policy after 3 months in order to ascertain compliance. At this point we will also feedback any revisions of the policy that may be required.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any particular concerns or any further suggestions. Many thanks for your patience during this implementation phase.

Please ensure all laboratory users receive a copy of this update.

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CLINICAL UPDATE