



Summary of Clinical Detail Requirements for Microbiology and Infectious Serology

On 1st July 2017, laboratory services for the Taupo and Turangi regions came under the jurisdiction of Pathlab. Welcome! We look forward to working closely with you and your patients now and into the future.

This clinical update is for the purpose of informing requestors of some of the clinical detail requirements for specimen requests that have been implemented at Pathlab over the last few years. They are summarised as follows:

Infectious Serology- All requests for infectious serology testing require accompanying clinical details. If no clinical details are supplied the sample will be stored and an electronic comment will be returned to the requestor. Tests affected by this policy include EBV, CMV, toxoplasmosis, hepatitis A, B & C, leptospirosis, syphilis, HIV, *Helicobacter pylori*, streptococcal titres, and brucellosis. The full [clinical update](#) for this policy is on the Pathlab website.

Please note that the test of choice for the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection is stool antigen testing. *Helicobacter pylori* serology will only be performed in exceptional circumstances (see this [clinical update](#)).

Enteric Pathogens- There is a large range of different tests that can be performed on stool samples. Testing is based on BPAC guidelines and requires the presence of either severity or public health risk factors on the specimen request. "Diarrhoea" per se, does not warrant laboratory testing. Testing will not take place without the presence of appropriate clinical details. The full [clinical update](#) for this policy is on the Pathlab website.

Vaginal Swab Processing- This is another sample type for which a range of tests can be performed. It is important for us to be aware of the clinical context for requesting so that the correct tests can be undertaken. No testing on vaginal swabs will take place until the laboratory is aware of the clinical reasons for testing. The full [clinical update](#) for this policy is on the Pathlab website.

Adding on Clinical details:

If a comment requesting clinical details is sent back to the requestor, these can then be sent to the laboratory by email as below:

Infectious Serology: - plw.testadd@pathlab.co.nz or fax 07 858 0879

Microbiology: - plbop.testadd@pathlab.co.nz or fax 07 577 4504

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to take in here. From a laboratory point of view we will try and be as accommodating as possible for samples coming from the Taupo and Turangi regions until requestors are familiar with the policies. We do not plan to enforce these clinical detail requirements in the Taupo and Turangi regions until the **1st August 2017**.

The inclusion of brief and appropriate clinical details is extremely important for all clinical specimens sent to the laboratory. At the moment we are considering the possibility of making clinical details pre-requisite for **all** microbiology samples, and a consultation document on this topic will be sent out to you in the next couple of months.

Please do not hesitate to ask if there are any questions pertaining to these policies. We plan to be in Taupo and Turangi on **26th July** and would be delighted to meet with you to discuss these policies and any other queries you might have.

Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.

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