



Hepatitis B Serology Requesting

We have reviewed Hepatitis B serology requesting at Pathlab. Due to the range of serological assays that can be requested for this infection, this can be a potentially confusing area for both requestors and the laboratory receiving the requests.

With this in mind, we have put together some brief guidance, as detailed below:

- **In an immunocompetent patient, please request HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen) when looking for evidence of Hepatitis B infection.**
- **In an immunosuppressed patient, or a patient who will be undergoing immunosuppression, please request HBsAg and anti-HBc (Hepatitis B core antibody) when looking for evidence of Hepatitis B infection.**
- **Any non-specific requests such as “Hepatitis B serology”, Hepatitis B status”, “Hepatitis B screen”, etc. will receive HBsAg testing only, unless other tests are specified.**
- **Hepatitis B Immunity testing (anti-HBs, Hepatitis B surface antibody) is not publicly funded, except in cases of clear known or potential exposure (e.g. BBFEs, incarceration, household contact).**

In order to practice effective diagnostic stewardship, we would be grateful if you could adhere to the recommendations above.

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