Lab Dept: Serology
Test Name: EHRLICHIA CHAFFEENSIS IGG ANTIBODY

General Information
Lab Order Codes: EHGM
Synonyms: E. chaffeensis IgG
CPT Codes: 86666 – Ehrlichia
Test Includes: Reported as a titer.

Logistics
Test Indications: Useful in the diagnosis of ehrlichiosis. In seroepidemiological surveys of the prevalence of the infection in certain populations.
Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts
Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: EHRC)
Phone Numbers:
MIN Lab: 612-813-6280
STP Lab: 651-220-6550
Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours
Turnaround Time: 1 – 3 days, test performed Monday - Friday
Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen
Specimen Type: Blood
Container: SST (Gold, marble or red) tube
Draw Volume: 1.5 mL (Minimum: 0.45 mL) blood
Processed Volume: 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.15 mL) serum
Collection: Routine venipuncture
Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens; gross hemolysis; gross lipemia; heat inactivated specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: Ehrlichia chaffeensis (HME) IgG <1:64

**Interpretation:** Serology for IgG may be negative during the acute phase for infection but a diagnostic titer usually appears by the third week after onset.

A positive immunofluorescence assay (titer > or =1:64) suggests current or previous infection. In general, the higher the titer, the more likely the patient has an active infection. Four-fold rises in titer also indicate active infection.

Previous episodes of ehrlichiosis may produce a positive serology although antibody levels decline significantly during the year following infection.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Performance characteristics have not been established for hemolyzed or lipemic specimens.

Methodology: Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA)

References: Mayo Medical Laboratories November 2017

Updates: 10/16/2017: Testing now performed at Mayo, previously forwarded to Focus Laboratories.