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