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**Lab Dept:** Serology

**Test Name:** HEPATITIS B CORE IgM ANTIBODY (ANTI-HBc IGM)

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HBCM

**Synonyms:** Hepatitis B Core IgM Specific; Hepatitis Bc Antibody; Hepatitis B Core Antibody IgM Fraction

**CPT Codes:** 86705 – Hepatitis B core antibody; IgM antibody

**Test Includes:** Hepatitis B Core IgM Specific Antibody reported as positive or negative.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Diagnosis of acute hepatitis B infection. Identifying acute hepatitis B virus infection in the “core window” period, when HbsAg and anti-HBs are negative. Differentiation between acute and chronic hepatitis B infection when used in conjunction with anti-HBc IgG and IgM.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Serology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test# HBIM)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 2 days; test setup daily

**Special Instructions:** See [Patient Preparation](#)

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** SST (Gold or marble)

**Draw Volume:** 3 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) serum

<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Allow specimen to clot, centrifuge and remove serum within 24 hours of collection. Remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at frozen temperatures. Forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	For 24 hours before this blood collection, do not take multivitamins or dietary supplements containing biotin or vitamin B7 that are commonly found in hair, skin and nail supplements and multivitamins.
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Gross hemolysis; warm specimens; gross lipemia; grossly icteric' mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:**

Negative

**Note:** A positive result indicates recent acute hepatitis B infection. A negative result suggests lack of recent exposure to the virus.

**Critical Values:**

N/A

**Limitations:**

Performance characteristics have not been established for the following specimen characteristics:

- Grossly icteric: Total bilirubin level of >20 mg/dL
- Grossly lipemic: Triolein level of >3000 mg/dL
- Grossly hemolyzed: Hemoglobin level of >500 mg/dL
- Containing particulate matter
- Cadaveric specimens

**Methodology:**

Chemiluminescence Immunoassay

**References:**

[Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page](#) December 2017

**Updates:**

- 4/6/2004: Test moved from Memorial Blood Center of Minneapolis to Mayo Medical Laboratories.
- 3/8/2005: Methodology previously listed as Enzyme Immunoassay.
- 9/27/2010: Specimen volume updates.
- 1/16/2016: Update to SST.
- 12/21/2017: Added patient preparation instructions.