

---

**Lab Dept:** Serology

**Test Name:** HEPATITIS Bc ANTIBODY (ANTI-HBc)

---

***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HBC

**Synonyms:** Hepatitis B Core Viral Antibody; Hepatitis B Core IgG/IgM Antibody; Anti-HBC; HBcAb

**CPT Codes:** 86704 – Hepatitis B core antibody (HbcAb); total

**Test Includes:** Hepatitis Bc Total (IgG and IgM combined) Antibody level.

---

***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Differentiation between acute and chronic hepatitis B infection. Diagnosis of acute hepatitis B infection in the “core window” when HbsAg and anti HBs are negative. Discriminating between HbsAg-positive patients (carriers) whose acute hepatitis is due to HBV infection and those whose acute hepatitis is due to other causes. Because low titer of IgM anti-Hbc can be either absent or present in chronic HBV carriers, IgM anti-HBc assessment is not usually considered useful in diagnosing chronic active or chronic persistent hepatitis B. Not useful for demonstration of immunity to or recovery from hepatitis B viral infection.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Serology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (Test: HBC)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 2 days, test performed daily.

**Special Instructions:** This test is not offered as a screening or confirmatory test for blood donor specimens.

---

***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

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

<b>Draw Volume:</b>	3 mL (Minimum: 1.2 mL) blood
<b>Processed Volume:</b>	1 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL) serum
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma from clot within 24 hours. Place serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at frozen temperatures. Forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Specimens other than serum, hemolysis, lipemia

---

### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Negative (reported as positive or negative) Interpretation depends on clinical setting.
<b>Critical Values:</b>	N/A
<b>Limitations:</b>	<p>A weakly positive anti-HBc test result unaccompanied by other hepatitis B serological markers, elevated liver enzymes, or a history of risk factors may be a false-positive result.</p> <p>Performance characteristics have not been established for the following specimen characteristics: lipemia, hemolysis, specimens containing particulate matter.</p>
<b>Methodology:</b>	Chemiluminescence Immunoassay (CIA)
<b>References:</b>	<a href="#">Mayo Medical Laboratories</a> July 2015
<b>Updates:</b>	<p>4/6/2004: Test moved from Memorial Blood Center of Minneapolis to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Test is now an automatic reflex to the IgM specific Anti-HBc.</p> <p>3/15/2005: Updated test method for Hepatitis Bc IgM antibody. Previously listed as Microparticle Enzyme Immunoassay (MEIA).</p> <p>8/10/2005: Test no longer reflexes to Hepatitis B Core IgM Specific test when Hepatitis Bc Ab is positive. The IgM specific test must be ordered separately if desired. Note: Change in methodology previously listed as Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA).</p> <p>8/26/2015: EDTA specimens no longer acceptable.</p> <p>1/16/2017: Update to SST.</p>