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)
**Draw Volume:** 3 mL (Minimum: 1.2 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL) serum

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

**Special Processing:** 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.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimens other than serum, hemolysis, lipemia

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**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:** Negative (reported as positive or negative)
Interpretation depends on clinical setting.

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:**
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.

Performance characteristics have not been established for the following specimen characteristics: lipemia, hemolysis, specimens containing particulate matter.

**Methodology:** Chemiluminescence Immunoassay (CIA)

**References:** Mayo Medical Laboratories July 2015

**Updates:**
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.
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).
8/26/2015: EDTA specimens no longer acceptable.
1/16/2017: Update to SST.