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**Lab Dept:** Serology

**Test Name:** HEPATITIS Be ANTIGEN (HBeAg)

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HBEA

**Synonyms:** Hepatitis HBe Ag; HBeAg; Hepatitis Be Viral Antigen

**CPT Codes:** 87350 – Hepatitis Be antigen

**Test Includes:** Hepatitis Be Antigen reported as positive, negative or equivocal.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Determining the presence or absence of detectable hepatitis B virus e antigen in monitoring infection status of individuals with chronic hepatitis B

Determining infectivity of hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers

Monitoring serologic response of chronically HBV-infected patients receiving antiviral therapy

**Lab Testing Sections:** Serology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MML Test: EAG)

**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 - Saturday

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

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

**Draw Volume:** 2.2 mL (Minimum: 1.8 mL) blood

<b>Processed Volume:</b>	0.7 mL (Minimum: 0.6 mL) serum
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial within 2 hours of collection. Store and ship at frozen temperatures. Forward promptly.  Specimen stable frozen (preferred) for 90 days, refrigerated for 6 days, ambient for 72 hours.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	For 24 hours before specimen collection, patient should not take multivitamins or dietary supplements (e.g., hair, skin, and nail supplements) containing biotin (vitamin B7).
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Specimens other than serum; warm specimens; gross lipemia; grossly icteric; gross hemolysis; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** Negative

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Disappearance of hepatitis B virus e antigen or appearance of HBe antibody in serum does not completely rule-out chronic hepatitis B carrier state or infectivity.

Specimens should not be taken from patients receiving therapy with high biotin doses (ie, >5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours following the last biotin administration.

Performance characteristics of this assay have not been established in patients younger than 2 years or in populations of immunocompromised or immunosuppressed patients. This assay is not licensed by US Food and Drug Administration for testing cord blood specimens or screening donors of blood, plasma, human cell, or tissue products.

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

- Grossly icteric (total bilirubin level >40 mg/dL)
- Grossly lipemic (intralipid level >2200 mg/dL)
- Grossly hemolyzed (hemoglobin level >2200 mg/dL)
- Specimen containing particulate matter

**Methodology:** Electrochemiluminescence Immunoassay (ECLIA)

**References:** [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) April 2024

**Updates:**

4/6/2004: Test moved from Memorial Blood Center of Minneapolis to Mayo Medical Laboratories.

1/16/2017: Update to SST.

4/23/2024: Updated optimal and minimum specimen volumes, changed methodology, updated limitations, added specimen stability, added patient preparation.