

Hepatitis B Lab Interpretations and Action Needed

Test	HBsAg	Anti-HBc	Anti-HBs	HBcIgM	HBsAg Conf.	Infectious?	Interpretation	When to resubmit:
Screen	Non-reactive	Non-reactive				No	Pt. has not been exposed at time of test.	DO NOT resubmit
Screen	Reactive	Reactive		Reactive		Yes	Highly infectious. Track pt. until IgM drops to non-reactive.	4 weeks
Screen	Reactive	Reactive		Non-reactive		Yes	If IgM is non-reactive, resubmit in 6 months. If pt. remains double positive, consider carrier after 6 months.	6 months
Screen	Reactive	Non-reactive			Reactive	Yes	Considered early window phase and a true positive.	4 weeks
Screen	Reactive	Non-reactive			Non-reactive	? Until further testing	Not considered a true positive. Possible cross-reactive.	4 weeks
Screen	Non-reactive	Reactive	Reactive			No	Pt. has been exposed but has immunity.	DO NOT resubmit
Screen	Non-reactive	Reactive	Non-reactive	Non-reactive		No	“Core only positive.” Pt. has had hepatitis in past but their sAb has dropped below detectible limits. Or could be a false positive for many reasons.	4 weeks If same results resubmit in 6 months
Screen	Non-reactive	Reactive	Non-reactive	Reactive		Yes	“Window phase” Pt. who was recently acute but has started to sero convert but has not developed detectible antibodies yet.	4 weeks
Post Vac			Reactive			No	Pt. has immunity. This is the only antibody present after vaccination.	Submit specimen for testing 4 - 6 weeks after final shot
Post Vac			Non-reactive			No	Pt. should have second series of vaccine. If after the second series of shots pt. is still non-reactive, it is considered a vaccine failure. CDC recommends patients in high risk occupations should be tested yearly to ensure that they have not been exposed.	Submit specimen for testing 4 - 6 weeks after final shot

Hepatitis A Lab Interpretations and Action Needed

Test	Hep A IgM	Interpretation (Hep A IgM is an acute phase marker)	Infectious?	When to resubmit:
HAV	Non-reactive	Pt. has not been exposed at the time of test.	No	DO NOT resubmit
HAV	Reactive	Pt. has been exposed – this is an acute marker.	Yes	DO NOT resubmit

Hepatitis C Lab Interpretations and Action Needed

Test	Hep C (HCV)	Interpretation * (Does not distinguish acute/convalescent stages.)	Infectious?	When to resubmit:
HCV	Non-reactive	Pt. has not been exposed at time of test.	*	DO NOT resubmit
HCV	Reactive With a signal to cut off ratio (s/co) above 3.8	Signal to cut off ratio indicates high probability positive.	*	DO NOT resubmit
HCV	Reactive With a signal to cut off ratio (s/co) below 3.8	Signal to cut off ratio indicates further testing is necessary. When specimen is resubmitted in 4 weeks, if it is a true positive the signal to cut off ration should be higher than previous test. With a reoccurring low signal to cut off ratio, a confirmatory is recommended.	*	Resubmit in 4 weeks