

Helicobacter pylori Serology Testing Update

Effective October 1, 2023

Discontinuation of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) Serology Testing

WHO: All customers of Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories (WDL)

WHAT: In our current efforts to align test offerings with current guidelines and recommendations, on October 1, 2023, WDL will discontinue offering serological (IgA, IgG, and IgM) testing for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*).

The use of serologic testing for *H. pylori* is not recommended due to limited clinical utility and low positive predictive value (PPV). Antibodies to *H.pylori* remain detectable for years following resolution of infection, and while a negative result suggests the absence of prior *H. pylori* infection, serologic testing cannot be used to distinguish active from past infection or to document eradication of the organism following successful treatment. Additionally, increasing numbers of health insurance providers no longer reimburse *H. pylori* serologic testing as they consider such testing medically unnecessary.

The following tests are available for diagnosing active H. pylori infection:

Test code	Test Name	Clinical Use	Specimen Type
LAB11346	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> , Breath Test	Aids in the initial diagnosis and post treatment monitoring of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> infection in adult patients and in pediatric patients 3-17 years of age.	Breath sample
LAB6037	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> , Stool Antigen		Stool

The following tests are being discontinued:

Test code	Test Name
MISC	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> Antibodies, IgA
LAB10313	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> Antibodies, IgG
LAB10312	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> Antibodies, IgM

QUESTIONS:

- Rachael Liesman, PhD, D(ABMM) – Director of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics
- Dawn Monzel, MLS(ASCP) – Director of Outreach Operations, 414.805.7652 or dmonzel@wisconsindiagnostic.com
- Kari Pfeifer, BS – Reference Testing Supervisor, 414.805.7645 or kpfeifer1@wisconsindiagnostic.com

