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**Important Laboratory Alert**

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St. Vincent Hospital has had the opportunity to convert our serological H. pylori test to a stool antigen H. pylori test. The main reason for this change is that serological testing for H. pylori is no longer recommended by the AGA because:

* It does not test for active infection
* It does not confirm eradication
* It has poor performance when compared to stool
* antigen tests
* It has inferior positive predictive value when

compared to active infection tests

* When serology results are positive but the

patient doesn’t have an active infection it can

lead to:

**•** Unnecessary treatment and Increased

antibiotic resistance

**•** Increased incidence of side effects

of treatment

**•** Increased patient anxiety over implications of a positive test

The H. pylori stool antigen test we are implementing is fully compliant with AGA guidelines and can be used for diagnosis, therapeutic monitoring and proof of cure post treatment.

Helicobacter pylori antigen stool

Collect: 0.5 mL liquid or 20-25 mm of semi-solid stool

Stability**:** Store at 2-8 C for up to 72 hours or freeze

immediately

EPIC Order Number: 500856

Reference Interval: Negative

What does this mean for our clients?

Better test that offers superior performance over the serological tests!!

Our serological test will remain orderable until May 3rd during this transition period.

