



To: Penn Medicine Physicians and Staff

Date: 5/18/2020

From: Malek Kamoun, MD, PhD
Eline Luning Prak, MD, PhD
Joyce Gonzalez, BS, M(ASCP)

Re: Discontinuation of Helicobacter pylori IgG serological assay

Beginning on May 25, 2020, Penn Medicine Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will discontinue performing the Helicobacter pylori IgG serological assay. It is no longer recommended to perform serology-based testing for diagnosing infection or evaluating treatment effectiveness as it is unable to distinguish between active and previous exposure to H. pylori and does not confirm eradication of the organism. Alternative noninvasive testing methods (e.g. the urea breath test and stool antigen test) exist for detecting the presence of the bacteria and have demonstrated higher clinical utility, sensitivity and specificity. The stool antigen test is orderable as:

Penn Chart Orderable

H. pylori Antigen; C5504410

For clinical questions related to this change, please contact the Immunology Resident at 215-980-9871. For operational questions related to this change, please contact Joyce Gonzalez at Joyce.Gonzalez@pennmedicine.upenn.edu or 215-662-6023.