

Legacy Laboratory Services

Legacy Lab Alert

June 2021

An Important Update from Legacy Laboratory Services

UPDATE: Legacy Offers Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex

Effective June 30, 2021, Legacy Laboratory Services will offer a new orderable, **Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex (mnemonic: HEP C AB RFLX)**. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend testing for hepatitis C virus with a Hepatitis C Antibody test. For patients who have a positive antibody test should have follow-up testing with a nucleic acid test for detection of HCV RNA.¹ Legacy's new orderable will make following this algorithm easier by automatically reflexing specimens with Reactive or Equivocal Hepatitis C Antibody results to Hepatitis C RNA testing by RT-PCR.

For this new orderable, two tubes are required:

- One **Gold Top Tube** (serum, SST) is required for the antibody screen.
- One **Lavender Top Tube** (EDTA plasma) is required for RT-PCR testing.

The individual tests will remain as separate orderables as well. A summary of the specimen requirements for all three tests is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Specimen Requirements

Parameters	NEW (Starts 6/30/21)	Hepatitis C Antibody	Hepatitis C RNA, Quantitative by PCR
	Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex		
Mnemonic	HEP C AB RFLX	HEP C AB	HEPC QNT
Includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis C Antibody Screen • If indicated: Hepatitis C RNA 	Hepatitis C Antibody Only	Hepatitis C RNA Only
Collect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two tubes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum, one 5 mL Gold (SST) • EDTA Plasma, one 4 mL Lavender Top Tube 	Serum, one 5 mL Gold (SST) or 7 mL Red Top Tube	Serum or EDTA Plasma, one 5 mL Gold (SST) or 4 mL Lavender Top Tube
Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Top: Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum - SST: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells ASAP and immediately refrigerate (2-8°C). • Lavender Top: Separate EDTA plasma from cells within 24 hours of collection. Transfer 3.0 mL EDTA plasma into a plastic aliquot tube and immediately freeze ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$). 	Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum - Red Top: 60 minutes; SST: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells ASAP and immediately refrigerate (2-8°C).	Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum - SST: 30 minutes). Separate serum or EDTA plasma from cells within 24 hours of collection. Transfer 3.0 mL serum or EDTA plasma into a plastic aliquot tube and immediately freeze ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$).
Preferred Volume	Serum : 1.0 mL EDTA Plasma : 3.0 mL	1.0 mL Serum	3.0 mL Serum or EDTA Plasma
Minimum Volume	Serum : 0.25 mL (0.6 mL minimum whole blood draw)	0.25 mL Serum (0.6 mL minimum whole blood draw)	1.5 mL Serum or EDTA Plasma (3.75 mL minimum whole blood draw)

Table 1: Specimen Requirements

Parameters		NEW (Starts 6/30/21)	Hepatitis C Antibody	Hepatitis C RNA, Quantitative by PCR
		Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex		
		EDTA Plasma: 1.5 mL (3.75 mL minimum whole blood draw)		
Stability (after separation from cells)	Room Temp. (18-26 °C)	Serum: 24 hours EDTA Plasma: Unacceptable	24 hours	Unacceptable
	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)	Serum: 7 days EDTA Plasma: 3 days	7 days	3 days
	Frozen (≤ -20 °C)	Serum: 2 months EDTA Plasma: 6 weeks	2 months	6 weeks
Transport		Serum: Refrigerated (2-8°C) EDTA Plasma: Frozen (≤ -20°C)	Refrigerated (2-8°C)	Frozen (≤ -20°C)
Unacceptable Conditions		Serum: Grossly hemolyzed specimens, Plasma specimens EDTA Plasma: Heparinized plasma, Specimen past stability, Specimens tested in non-molecular labs, Specimens with inadequate volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grossly hemolyzed specimens Plasma specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heparinized plasma Specimen past stability Specimens tested in non-molecular labs Specimens with inadequate volume
Note		EDTA plasma cannot be shared with other departments. Reactive or Equivocal Hepatitis C Antibody results will be reflexed to Hepatitis C RNA testing for confirmation.	-----	Samples cannot be shared with other departments.
Reference Interval		See individual tests.	Non-reactive	Not Detected
Performed		Hep C Ab: Mon-Sat Hep C RNA: Mon-Fri (if indicated)	Mon-Sat	Mon-Fri (batched)
Reported		1-7 days	1-2 days	1-4 days
Method		Hep C Ab: CIA Hep C RNA: RT-PCR	Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CIA)	Quantitative Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)
CPT Code		Hep C Ab: 86803 Hep C RNA: 87522 (if indicated)	86803	87522

For additional information, please contact your account representative, client services or consult our website:

Legacy Laboratory Client Services: 503-413-1234, 877-270-5566, www.legacyhealth.org/labservices