

## Laboratory Testing Update

Effective March 1, 2020, **Helicobacter Pylori Antibody IgG testing** will no longer be offered as a test menu option at St. Elizabeth Healthcare or Preferred Lab Partners.

### Why?

1. American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) recommend **urea breath test** or **stool antigen test** as preferred modalities for testing active H. pylori infection.
2. This is a Choosing Wisely recommendation. Many labs around the country have already removed the test from their menus.
3. An increasing number of health insurance providers no longer reimburse patients for H. pylori serologic testing.
4. Poor positive predictive value: In areas where prevalence of H. pylori is low, positive serology is more likely to be a false positive.
5. Serologic testing cannot be used to distinguish active from past infection or to document eradication.

To order the recommended ARUP tests in Epic, please use the following:

**Helicobacter pylori Antigen, Stool - Ref lab SEH-LAB1314 or**

**H. pylori Breath Test, Adult - Ref lab SEH-LAB572**

**Pylori Breath Test, Pediatric 2010925**

Please note that prior use of PPIs, bismuth-containing products, or antibiotics decreases sensitivity of both the stool antigen test and the urea breath test. The patient should not have taken these within the previous 14 days prior to testing.

Please call 859-301-2170 for more information regarding hours of operation and collection requirements for each test. For questions or concerns about this update, please contact Angie Poe-Bricking, Immunology Supervisor, at 859.301.0755.

<https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/2016/01/15/helicobacter-pylori-infection-serologic-testing-not-recommended-communicate/>