



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clinicians and Provincial Laboratories

FROM: Dr. Todd Hatchette / Dr. Jason LeBlanc
Directors, Immunology / Virology Section

DATE: January 4, 2013

RE: Clarification of Hepatitis A Serology (HAV)

Effective January 7, 2013 fourteen Microbiology serology tests will be performed using a new methodology. Hepatitis A serology is used for two purposes, either to determine immunity (HAV IgG) or diagnose acute infection (HAV IgM).

Determination of immunity (HAV IgG):

Routine pre-immunization serology is not cost-effective in Nova Scotia, where the population is unlikely to have been previously infected by HAV. Pre-immunization serology can be considered in older Canadians, people from HAV endemic areas or those with a past history of jaundice (Canadian Immunization Guide, 2012).

Acute Infection (HAV IgM):

HAV IgM should only be ordered when evaluating patients for acute infection.

To ensure that the appropriate test is performed, the clinician **MUST** clearly indicate whether they are looking for a diagnosis of an **acute infection (IgM)** or **immunity (IgG)**. Failure to indicate which test is required may delay testing and lead to erroneous results.

We continue to strive to provide the best service possible. If there are any questions regarding the results they can be directed to Drs. Hatchette and LeBlanc (473-6885/7698).

Sincerely,

Todd Hatchette MD FRCPC
Room 407B, 5788 University Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 1V8
Tel: 902-473-6885 Fax: 902-473-7971
todd.hatchette@cdha.nshealth.ca

Jason LeBlanc PhD
Room 407B, 5788 University Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 1V8
Tel: 902-473-7698 Fax: 902-473-7971
jason.leblanc@cdha.nshealth.ca

Healthy People, Healthy Communities