



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provincial Lab Managers, Capital Health Blood Collection Services, New Brunswick and PEI Hospitals

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

DATE: Jan 28, 2015

RE: **New Specimen Collection Requirements for Hepatitis B Virus Viral Loads**

Effective February 9, 2015, the Microbiology laboratory is changing the specimen collection requirements for **Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Viral Loads** from plasma to serum. This change is at the request of the National Microbiology Laboratory where the HBV viral load testing is performed. The collection of serum allows for concurrent testing of HBV viral loads and HBeAg/Ab that are often used to monitor HBV disease.

To ensure adequate volume, this change requires **two Gold top serum separator tubes** to be collected and sent for testing.

Notes:

- Viral load (VL) testing is sent out of the province only for patients who are being monitored by a Gastroenterologist or Infectious Disease physician.
- For referring laboratories, if the serum cannot be removed from the clot within 24 hours, laboratories must centrifuge the specimen at 800-1600 x g for 20 minutes at room temperature (15-30°C) and aliquot serum prior to transport. Serum may be stored at 25-30°C for up to 3 days, at 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at -20°C to -80°C for at least six weeks.

Please contact the laboratory at 902-473-6881 or Dr. Jason LeBlanc at 902-473-7698 (e-mail: jason.leblanc@cdha.nshealth.ca) or Dr. Todd Hatchette at 902-473-6885, (e-mail: todd.hatchette@cdha.nshealth.ca) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention.

Healthy People, Healthy Communities