

**Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**

DATE: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
TO: Strong Memorial Hospital Clinical Laboratory Clients  
FROM: Angela Iacchetta, Laboratory Supervisor  
RE: Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Testing

Hepatitis B Newsletter Announcement

Beginning on April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, the laboratory will begin reporting both the qualitative and quantitative results for anti-HBs. In the past, anti-HBs results were reported only as positive or negative. However, the increasing demands for a tool to evaluate the success of HBV immunization, monitor therapy post HBIG administration and clarify unusual HBV marker patterns prompted our decision to present results quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Anti-HBs reports will now include the amount of anti-HBs detected in the patient's sample. The established ranges and their interpretations for anti-HBs are as follows:

\* 4 IU/L or less..... negative  
5 to 11 IU/L ..... indeterminate  
12 to > 1000 IU/L... positive

The specimen required, the charge and the turn-around-time for anti-HBs testing remain the same because only the reporting format is changing. When the change is activated send out testing for quantitative testing will be discontinued. The anti-HBs assay used in our laboratory is identical to that used by our reference (Vitros ECi Sytem) so no change in values should be observed.

\* **Additional Notes:** Hepatitis B Reporting:

Hepatitis B Comment for Report

Immunity to HBV is implied by anti-HBs values greater than or equal to 12 IU/L. This result may represent the antibody response to successful HBV immunization, to past HBV infection or passively acquired antibody (e.g. transfusion). Post-immunization antibody testing guidelines for the general public are described in MMWR 1990; 39(S2): 1-23 and for healthcare workers in MMWR 1997; 46 (No. RR-18).

Interpretive criteria:

4 IU/L or less..... negative  
5 to 11 IU/L ..... indeterminate  
12 to > 1000 IU/L... positive

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward to provide quality testing for you and your patients. Please direct any questions or concerns you may have with this change in anti-HBs reporting to either Laboratory Director, Marilyn Menegus, Ph.D. 585-275-7735 or Laboratory Supervisor, Angela Iacchetta 585-275-5903.