Test Update
Helicobacter pylori IgG Antibody

Effective December 28, 2016, the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratory will discontinue Helicobacter pylori IgG Antibody testing.

Recent guidelines for testing strategies issued by the American Gastroenterology Association and the American College of Gastroenterology do not recommend the use of serology for the diagnosis of active *H. pylori* infection. For these reasons, serological testing for *H. pylori* will be discontinued to facilitate physician use of the recommended test methods only.

The recommended tests available for the detection of *H. pylori* can be divided into two categories: invasive and non-invasive.

**Non-invasive testing:**

*Helicobacter pylori Antigen – Stool*

- **Epic Code:** LAB397
- **Methodology:** Qualitative Enzyme Immunoassay
- **Sample Collection:** 5 g stool in unpreserved transport vial
- **Patient Preparation:** To avoid false negative results, no antibiotics, proton pump inhibitors, or bismuth preparations should be administered to the patient for 14 days prior to specimen collection.
- **Unacceptable:** Gastric specimens, swabs or tissue. Specimens in media or preservatives.
- **Storage/Transport Temperature:** Frozen
- **Stability (from collection to initiation):** Ambient: 2 hours; Refrigerated: 72 hours; Frozen: 1 month
- **Performed:** Sunday - Saturday
- **Reported:** Within 24 hours
- **CPT:** 87338

**Invasive testing (endoscopy with gastric biopsy):**

Recommended for adults over 55 years of age who exhibit alarming symptoms including, but not limited to, gastrointestinal bleeding, unexplained iron-deficiency anemia, unexplained weight loss, and/or family history of gastrointestinal cancers.

Please contact Julie Rosser, MD at 720-848-1551 if you have any questions, or visit our website at [https://www.uchealth.org/professionals/Pages/Clinical-Laboratory.aspx](https://www.uchealth.org/professionals/Pages/Clinical-Laboratory.aspx) for additional information.

**Issued:** December 1, 2016