

SJH CENTRE FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE & MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY		
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Microbiology Department
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Viral Hepatitis Testing for General Practitioners

Acute Viral Hepatitis Screen

- Hepatitis A IgM
- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
- Hepatitis C antibody and HCV RNA PCR*
*HCV antibody may be negative in acute HCV infection
- Hepatitis E PCR: depending on all laboratory parameters and clinical details

Viral Screen for Chronic Hepatitis

- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
- Hepatitis C antibody

Hepatitis B Infection Status (past or current)

- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
- Hepatitis B core total antibody (HBcAb)

Post Hepatitis B Vaccine Screen

- Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb)
Collected 6-8 weeks after completion of HBV vaccination course

PLEASE PROVIDE CLINICAL DETAILS: Requests for specified individual tests will be processed with appropriate clinical details

- Clotted blood/serum (red-topped tube) is the specimen type for all the above Hepatitis tests.
- A single full 7ml blood tube will suffice for any serology test combinations.
- Send a second individual blood tube if requesting HCV PCR.
- Serum for HCV PCR must be separated within 6 hours of venepuncture so prompt receipt of specimen is essential and appropriate labelling of specimen & bag (e.g. URGENT PCR) enables prioritisation of specimen through the laboratory.

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