

SJH CENTRE FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE & MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY		
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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 core Ag / HCV RNA PCR*
- *HCV antibody may be negative in Acute HCV infection

HEV IgM & HEV RNA: depending on all laboratory parameters and clinical details

Viral Screen for Chronic Hepatitis

- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) (HBV DNA only for Hepatology Clinic)
- 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)

Requested for specified individual tests will be processed with appropriate clinical details.

- Clotted blood/serum is the preferred specimen type for all the above Hepatitis tests.
- A single full 7ml blood tube will suffice for any test combinations.
- Lithium heparin specimens are unsuitable for Hepatitis B surface Antigen detection and Hepatitis C PCR testing.
- Specimens for Hepatitis C 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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