



Date: 11 Feb 2020

Re: ANTIBODIES TO HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (ANTI-HBs)

Dear Colleague,

In line with the national immunisation guideline, it is recommended that if an anti- HBs result is between 10-99 mIU/ml (low response); the anti-HBs levels should be confirmed by 2 different assays.

The following groups are at increased risk of HBV infection:

- a) Persons with occupational risk of exposure to blood or blood- contaminated environments
- b) Family and household contacts Infants born to mothers with acute or chronic HBV infection
- c) Adoption/fostering
- d) Injecting drug users (IDUs) and their contacts All IDUs.
- e) Individuals at high risk due to medical conditions
- f) People with other risks

Anti-HBs levels > 10 mIU/ml are accepted as protecting against HBV for those at low risk.

For any results between 10-99 mIU/ml (low level)anti-HBs should be confirmed by 2 different assays, a booster dose is required if patient is at increased risk.

For information on this guidance document, please refer to

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/chapter9.pdf>

To comply with this guideline, from the 16 March 2020 MedLab Pathology will be referring all anti-HBs tests with results between 10-99 mIU/ml for analysis with a second assay. In cases where additional reflex testing is performed there will be an extra cost of € 46.17

If, however, you would like to opt out of this recommended guideline process, please contact us on 1800 303 349 or email us at info@medlabpathology.ie. Note that if you opt out of the auto-reflex option then there will be no additional cost incurred.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further queries you may have.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Margaret Hannan – Consultant Microbiologist

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