



Technical Bulletin

Update on testing for *Helicobacter pylori* infections

TO: Our Valued Clients

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Date: September 13, 2019

Subject: *H. pylori* antibody IgG and IgA (serology) discontinuation (11/4/19)
H. pylori local stool antigen testing addition (10/21/19)

Based on a CMS National Coverage Policy that went into effect 5/27/2019 in regards to LCD (Local Coverage Determination) for Hawaii and Guam Jurisdiction for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) testing, serologic testing (IgG and IgA) for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) is no longer covered by Medicare. In addition, *H. pylori* IgG, and IgA serology is no longer recommended by the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) as appropriate tests for active infection.

Effective November 4, 2019, DLS will be discontinuing in-house IgG and IgA serologic testing for *H. pylori*.

Discontinued Test Description	Discontinued Order Code
<i>H. pylori</i> Antibody, IgG	4546
<i>H. pylori</i> Antibody, IgA	5189
<i>H. pylori</i> Panel	4711

Starting October 21, 2019, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. (DLS) will ADD local stool antigen testing for *Helicobacter pylori* to compliment *H. pylori* Breath Test and gastric biopsy *H. pylori* Screen (CLOTtest). These are all tests for active infection. Both the *H. pylori* Breath Test and the *H. pylori* Stool Antigen test are non-invasive, performed in house at DLS, and can be used for both diagnostic purposes, and therapeutic test of cure.

NEW Test Information:

Test Description	Order Code	Collection Sites on Oahu	Collection Sites Neighbor Islands	Pacific
<i>H. pylori</i> Breath Test	461	Kailua, Kalihi, Kapolei, Pearlridge, QMC Punchbowl POB II, QMC West POB	Hilo-4 (Ponahawai Big Island), Waimea (Big Island), Kona-2 (Hualalai Big Island), Kauai-1 (Lihue), Maui-2 (Kahului), Molokai (Kaunakakai)	Guam, Saipan
<i>H. pylori</i> Antigen, Stool	5786	Patient collect stool in provided clean container; keep sample refrigerated and deliver to DLS within 48 hours of collection. See special collect instructions on DLS website.		

Please be aware that because of the changes to coverage, even the major reference labs on the mainland, where DLS would normally send testing not performed in-house, have discontinued serologic testing for *H. pylori*. As such, testing for *H. pylori* serology will no longer be available, either in-house or even as a send-out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call client services at 589-5101, or Dr. Wesley J. Kim at 589-5131.

References:

1. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): *Helicobacter pylori* Infection Testing (DL37624); 5/27/2019
2. ACG guideline on the management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007;102(8):1808-25.
3. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guideline 184. 2014.