HELICOBACTER PYLORI
SEROLOGY TESTS DISCONTINUED

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016, TriCore Reference Laboratories will no longer offer the following serology tests for Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) antibodies.

- Helicobacter pylori Antibodies, IgA (Test Code: HELA)
- Helicobacter pylori Antibodies, IgG (Test Code: HELG)

As part of our commitment to provide the highest quality patient care, TriCore Reference Laboratories will discontinue offering the serology tests for H. pylori antibodies. The current diagnostic guidelines of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and the American Gastroenterology Association (AGA) do not support serological testing for H. pylori antibodies.

Antibody tests cannot distinguish active or past infection with adequate sensitivity and specificity. Additionally, serology tests are of little benefit in documenting eradication; antibody levels can remain detectable for years following successful cure of infection. Stool antigen testing offers a highly efficient, definitive, and affordable means to test for active H. pylori infection. TriCore strongly discourages treating without a definitive diagnosis because doing so drives up excessive antibiotic use and contributes to antibiotic resistance.

To detect an active H. pylori infection, order the H. pylori stool antigen test (Test Code: HELAG). For further information, please refer to TriCore’s directory of service on tricore.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST NAME</th>
<th>CPT CODE</th>
<th>METHODOLOGY</th>
<th>TESTING PERFORMED</th>
<th>REPORTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helicobacter Pylori Antigen Detection</td>
<td>87338</td>
<td>Enzyme Immunoassay EIA</td>
<td>Tuesday Thursday Saturday</td>
<td>Within 3 days</td>
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**COLLECTION**

- Specimen
- Stool
- Collection Containers
  - Para-Pak Clean Vial (white cap)
  - Sterile Container
- Rejection Criteria
  - Watery, diarrheal stools and swabs are unacceptable. If only preserved stool is received, specimen is unacceptable.

**PROCESSING**

- Specimen Processing Instructions
  - Filling all three vials (white cap, orange cap, green cap) assures there is sufficient specimen to do any Microbiology test ordered by the physician.

**SHIPPING/TRANSPORT AND STORAGE**

- Stabilities/Storage (Collection to initiation of testing)
  - Temperature
    - Ambient: Unacceptable
    - Refrigerated: 3 day(s)
    - Frozen: 1 week
- Shipping Instructions
  - Ship refrigerated