

# 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](http://tricore.org).

TEST NAME	CPT CODE	METHODOLOGY	TESTING PERFORMED	REPORTED
Helicobacter Pylori Antigen Detection	87338	Enzyme Immunoassay EIA	Tuesday Thursday Saturday	Within 3 days
<b>COLLECTION</b>				
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.			
<b>PROCESSING</b>				
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.			
<b>SHIPPING/TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>				
Stabilities/Storage (Collection to initiation of testing)	<b>Temperature</b> Ambient Refrigerated Frozen	<b>Stability</b> Unacceptable 3 day(s) 1 week		
Shipping Instructions	Ship refrigerated			