



LAB ALERT

THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Helicobacter pylori Serology Tests Discontinued

Effective January 1, 2017 The Medical Foundation (TMF) will no longer offer testing for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) antibodies.

DISCONTINUED TESTS

Test Name: Helicobacter pylori Antibody, IgG
TMF Number: 28075

Test Name: Helicobacter pylori Antibody, IgM
TMF Number: 28076

The American Gastroenterological Association and the American College of Gastroenterology do not recommend antibody testing due to its limitations:

- Poor positive predictive value
- Poor performance characteristics for sensitivity and specificity compared to alternative tests
- Inability to differentiate active from past infection
- Inability to assess successful eradication following treatment

The associations cited above have recommended the Urea Breath Test or the Fecal Antigen Test as the initial step in the evaluation of possible *H. pylori* infection. Current algorithms for the non-invasive assessment of patients for possible *H. pylori* infection no longer include serologic evaluation.

ARUP, Mayo Medical Laboratories, and Quest Diagnostics no longer offer *H. pylori* serologic testing on their test menus and many insurance companies no longer cover patient's costs for this testing.

The Medical Foundation will continue to offer the following non-invasive tests for *H. pylori*:

Test Name: Helicobacter pylori Antigen, EIA, Feces
TMF Number: 21261

Test Name: Helicobacter pylori Breath Test, Adult
TMF Number: 23063

Test Name: Helicobacter pylori Breath Test, Pediatric
TMF Number: 23463

Additional information on ordering and collection requirements for these tests is available on www.sbmf.org (Test Directory tab) or by contacting TMF Client Services at 574-236-SBMF(7263).

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530 North Lafayette Boulevard • South Bend, Indiana 46601
(574) 234-4176 • Elkhart (574) 293-8441 • (800) 544-0925
Joyce L. Simpson, M.D. • *Medical Director*