

**AFFECTED TESTS:**

- **HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN [LAB304131]**

**EXPLANATION:**

In 2023, the CDC recommended hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening for all adults aged 18 years B at least once in their lifetime. This universal screening is requires using a test with high specificity. HBV surface antigen testing is sensitive, however, it is not uncommon for this test to be falsely positive in patients without HBV infection.

**For this reason, samples that test positive for HBV surface antigen will be resulted as “presumptively reactive” and the sample will be reflexively sent to Quest Diagnostics for confirmatory testing using by a neutralization assay.**

The “presumptively reactive” result will be released to patient chart. However, the HBV surface antigen test charge will be voided. Patients will only be charged for the test performed at Quest Diagnostics. If the test result is required for urgent care, please correlate with other Hepatitis B serology test results, such as Hepatitis B Core total antibodies, Hepatitis B surface antibody and Hepatitis B Core IgM.

**Only serum is acceptable for testing**, including both gold top and red top tubes.

This change applies to all WVU Health System Laboratories that perform HBV surface antigen testing.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS TESTING**

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