



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

**TO:** All Local Health Department Directors of Nursing

**FROM:** Amy Rae Bashforth, MPA  
Immunization Program Manager

**DATE:** May 24, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Hepatitis B Serology Testing Contract

Post-vaccine serology testing of infants born to Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg+) positive mothers is a critical component of perinatal Hepatitis B prevention. Post vaccine serology testing reveals whether an infant who received HBIG and three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine is immune from disease, is in need of further intervention to prevent chronic Hepatitis B disease, or is infected. A second major component of the perinatal prevention program is testing and, if necessary, vaccination of household and sexual contacts of HBsAg infected women.

The Ohio Department of Health Immunization Program provides free post-vaccine serology testing of infants, as well as screening of household and sexual contacts, to local health jurisdictions. Our previous contract with the Cincinnati Health Department laboratory was discontinued due to the closing of that facility. I am pleased to inform you that a new contract has been established with Mount Carmel West Laboratory.

Attached are a lab-testing request form and instructions for completing the form and submitting to Mount Carmel West Laboratory. You should copy the form and submit the copy with your specimen. Please note that the tests available to order are listed on the bottom-right portion of the form. The tests included under the contract are Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg), Hepatitis B surface Antibody (HBsAb – also known as anti-HBS), and Hepatitis B core Antibody (HBCAb).

ODH will be billed directly by Mount Carmel Laboratory for any tests ordered.

Should you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Bea Burkholder or Joe Bronowski at 1-614-466-4643.

## **Instructions for Submitting Hepatitis Lab Specimens to Mount Carmel West Laboratory**

1. Make copies of the lab test requisition form to submit with the specimen.
2. At the top of the page, indicate your health department and the fax number to which results should be sent.
3. In the boxes identified, write the patient's name and date of birth, name of ordering physician (usually the medical director), and the date the specimen was drawn.
4. At the bottom right, indicate which test(s) you are requesting by checking the box to the left of the test name.
5. Blood for serologic testing is collected by venipuncture or by finger/heel stick into a serum-gel separator tube. Do not freeze the tube before serum has been removed. Centrifuge the tube to separate serum from clot. Pack according to USPS regulations (IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations) and ship or mail.

**Please contact PHBPP coordinator at ODH is you need shipping containers.....they can be mailed to you.**

**Send the specimen to: Mount Carmel West Laboratory  
793 West State Street  
Two Tower – Clinical Laboratory  
Columbus, OH 43222  
ATTN: Specimen Processing**

The results will be faxed to you, and ODH will be billed directly by Mount Carmel laboratory for all tests performed.

Please remember that only Hepatitis B tests related to the Perinatal Prevention Program are eligible.