

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories	
Test Name	Hepatitis A Virus rRT-PCR
PHL Location	Office of Public Health Laboratory Baton Rouge
CPT Code	<b>87798</b>
Synonyms	HepA. Hep A panel, Hepatitis A PCR
Brief Description of Test	<p><b>Prior authorization required. Contact Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 800-256-2748.</b></p> <p>This test directly detects Hepatitis A virus (HAV) RNA in serum and stool and may be used in conjunction with Hepatitis A serology assay for diagnostics.</p> <p>Although a positive real-time PCR result is diagnostic of Hepatitis A virus infection, a negative result does not rule out infection.</p>
Possible Results	<p>Positive – Hepatitis A Virus detected</p> <p>Negative – Hepatitis A Virus not detected</p> <p>Indeterminate – Results Inconclusive. Please follow up with a second sample.</p>
Reference Range	Negative
Specimen Type	Serum or Stool
Specimen Container(s):	<p>Blood Serum Collection Tube or Screw-cap tube for pour-off of serum</p> <p>Raw stool in a sterile Screw-cap collection container or stool in Cary Blair transport</p>
Minimum volume accepted:	Request 1 mL

<p>Collection Instructions</p>	<p>Label specimen with Patient Name and a 2<sup>nd</sup> unique identifier such as a chart number or medical record number. DOB is not considered unique.</p> <p>Complete a Lab Form 96 to accompany the serum sample. Lab submission form must be thoroughly completed with patient's first and last name, 2<sup>nd</sup> patient identifier, gender, date of birth, date of collection, time of collection, test requested, and submitter's name, address, and contact number.</p> <p>The same two unique identifiers <b>MUST</b> be recorded on the tube <b>AND</b> the Lab 96 form.</p> <p>Transport specimen to laboratory as soon as possible after collection. Keep submission forms insulated from specimens.</p>
<p>Storage and Transport Instructions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store serum at &lt;24°C and ship for receipt within 5 days.</li> <li>• Store stool at &lt;8°C and ship for receipt within 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>For shipments that are delivered &gt;5 days from collection, specimens should be kept frozen (≤-20°C). If serum specimen is to be frozen, do not freeze in original blood serum collection tube. Pour-off serum into a screw cap tube.</p>
<p>Causes for Rejection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unspun</li> <li>• Short Draw/Overfill</li> <li>• Received outside acceptable transport conditions</li> <li>• Incorrect source</li> <li>• Incorrect labeling</li> <li>• Expired collection tubes</li> <li>• Not approved for testing by Infectious Disease Epidemiology</li> </ul>
<p>Limitations of the Procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This assay is qualitative, not quantitative</li> <li>• IgM antibodies to HAV are detectable at or prior to onset of clinical illness, decline in about 3 to 6 months, and become undetectable by commercially available diagnostic tests.</li> <li>• IgG antibodies to HAV appear soon after IgM, persist for years after infection, and confer lifelong immunity.</li> <li>• Viremia occurs within 1 to 2 weeks after HAV exposure and persists through the period of liver enzyme elevation.</li> <li>• Virus concentrations in serum are 2 to 3 log<sub>10</sub> units lower than those in stool.</li> </ul>
<p>Interfering Substances</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>References</p>	<p>Nainan, Omana V., Xia, Guoliang, Vaughan, Gilberto and Margolis, Harold S. 2006. Diagnosis of Hepatitis A Virus Infection: a Molecular Approach. Clinical Microbiology Review. 19.1.63-79</p>

	CDC SOP – Absolute Quantitation of HAV Using Real Time PCR
Additional Information	This assay is not FDA approved. Primer/Probe sequences were developed by CDC. Assay performance characteristics were developed by Louisiana Office of Public Health Lab.
Release Date	12/18/2018
Warning: If you have printed a copy of this information please be advised that the Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories website and methods are updated on a regular basis. Please check the on-line version of this document to ensure you are relying on the most recent release.	