

## Interpretation of the Hepatitis B Panel

Tests	Results	Interpretation
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative negative negative	susceptible
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive positive	immune due to natural infection
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative negative positive	immune due to hepatitis B vaccination
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive positive negative	acutely infected *
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	positive positive negative negative	chronically infected
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	negative positive negative	four interpretations possible §

\* Persons who are chronically infected may continue to test IgM anti-HBc positive.

§ Four interpretations possible:

1. Resolved past infection with very low serum anti-HBs level
2. False-positive anti-HBc, thus susceptible
3. "Low level" chronic infection (i.e., serum HBsAg level undetectable by assay)
4. Resolving acute infection

**HBsAg:** Hepatitis B surface antigen

**Anti-HBc (HBcAb):** Hepatitis B total core antibody

**IgM anti-HBc:** Hepatitis B core antibody IgM

**Anti-HBs (HBsAb):** Hepatitis B surface antibody

Adapted from: Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, STD and TB Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/SerologicChartv8.pdf>