Memorandum – Immunology #36

To: UNC Health Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: John Schmitz, PhD
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Date: June 22, 2026

Subject: HBsAg Reporting

Effective June 18, 2026, the Clinical Immunology Laboratory will update Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) results reporting in EPIC. HBsAg testing relies upon a screening chemiluminescent assay that detects circulating HBsAg. If reactive, a second test is performed to confirm the results of the screening assay as up to 20% of positive screening assays may be falsely reactive. This confirmatory testing is referred to as HBsAg neutralization. Results from HBsAg testing will be reported as follows:

- HBsAg samples that screen negative will be reported as “HBsAg Not Detected”. Patients are considered negative for HBsAg.
- HBsAg samples that screen positive for HBsAg will have the result “See HBsAg neutralization”. These samples are automatically tested by the HBsAg neutralization test. Samples with successful HBsAg neutralization will be reported as “HBsAg detected” with the comment “Confirmed by HBsAg Neutralization Assay”. Patients should be considered positive for HBsAg.
- HBsAg samples that screened positive but are not successfully neutralized in the confirmatory assay will be reported as “HBsAg not detected” with the comment “Neutralization assay did not confirm presence of HBsAg”. Patients should be considered negative for HBsAg.

Please note this change only affects results reporting. Testing methodology will not change. Please direct questions to the Immunology Laboratory (984-974-1815).