

Patient notification letter regarding hepatitis B test results

(A letter such as this can be used to provide written documentation to your patients regarding their hepatitis B test results. The Coalition receives many phone calls from people who don't understand their test results. Please feel free to adapt this letter and use it for your patients.)

Date:

Dear _____, (D.O.B. _____)

Your hepatitis B test results are recorded here and the explanation checked below.

Date of testing: _____ HBsAg _____ anti-HBs _____ anti-HBc _____ IgM anti-HBc _____

- [] **SUSCEPTIBLE:** (HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc are negative) Your test results show that you have never been infected with the hepatitis B virus. This means that you could get hepatitis B in the future. You should receive the three doses of hepatitis B vaccine to protect yourself from this disease. After the 1st dose, the 2nd dose is usually given one month later and the 3rd dose is usually given five months after that. Please call the clinic to make an appointment to start your hepatitis B vaccinations.
- [] **IMMUNE DUE TO PAST INFECTION:** (HBsAg is negative; anti-HBs and anti-HBc are positive) Your results show that you had hepatitis B virus infection in the past but that the disease is gone and you will not get the disease again. You do not need the shots to protect you. You are already protected.
- [] **IMMUNE DUE TO VACCINATION:** (HBsAg and anti-HBc are negative; anti-HBs is positive) Your results indicate that you are protected from hepatitis B virus infection because you most likely received the hepatitis B vaccine. You are immune or safe from hepatitis B.
- [] **ACUTELY INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS B VIRUS:** (HBsAg may be positive or negative; anti-HBc, and IgM anti-HBc are positive; anti-HBs is negative) Your results show that you have recently developed hepatitis B virus infection and that you are infectious. Please contact the clinic to discuss what further testing or evaluation needs to be done.
- [] **CHRONICALLY INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS B VIRUS:** (HBsAg and anti-HBc are positive; anti-HBs and IgM anti-HBc are negative) Your test results show that you are infected with the hepatitis B virus. It is important for you to come into the clinic **soon** for a physical exam and to receive additional information about this disease. It is important for you to learn how to take care of yourself and how to protect others from getting hepatitis B. Hepatitis B can cause serious liver damage in some people, even if they feel fine. Call us now to make an appointment for your physical exam and hepatitis B education.
- [] **INDETERMINATE RESULTS:** (only anti-HBc is positive) Your test results suggest that you may have been in contact with the hepatitis B virus at some time in the past. You may not be protected from the disease. Please make an appointment to come to discuss the meaning of the test and what plan of action needs to be taken.

Please call the clinic if you have questions about this information.

Sincerely,

Physician's signature