



## Appendix 3 – Hepatitis B Serology Results and Interpretation

Diagnosis of HBV infection is usually through serological and virological markers. The incubation period of HBV infection ranges from 4 to 12 weeks, and has a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations. The results of hepatitis B serologic testing and their corresponding interpretation are shown in below.

### HBV Serology Results and Interpretation

Serology markers						Interpretation + = reactive, - = non-reactive
HBsAg	anti-HBs	anti-HBc Total	anti-HBc IgM*	HBeAg*	anti-HBe*	
-	-	-				No evidence of HBV infection. Offer vaccine.
-	+	-				Immune due to vaccination.
-	+	+				Past HBV infection = immune; If immunosuppressed, can result in reactivation.
+	-	+	+			Acute or chronic hepatitis B infection.
+	-	+	-	+	-	Likely chronic carrier state; highly infectious.
+	-	+	-	-	+	Likely chronic carrier state; infectivity lower.
-	-	+				Four possible interpretations: 1. False positive. 2. Remote resolved infection, with persistence of anti-HBc Total and waning anti-HBs level. 3. Resolved acute infection, prior to appearance of anti-HBs. 4. Occult blood infection (chronic infection, with undetectable HBsAg level). See <a href="#">BCCDC Hepatitis B Guidelines</a> (Table 5-2).
+	+	+		+/-	+/-	Very rarely patients will display HBsAg, anti-HBs and anti-HBc-Total. Such patients are typically chronically infected or may be resolving their infection. They are considered infectious.

\* Not needed for routine diagnosis in general practice. Should be reserved for special circumstances. Used by specialists to monitor treatment.