

### *Helicobacter pylori* Testing Update

Effective Date: January 3, 2017

Effective January 3, 2017, Beaumont Laboratory will no longer offer *Helicobacter pylori* IgG testing. Both the American Gastroenterological Association and American College of Gastroenterology consider the test to be of limited clinical utility as highlighted below:

- Poor positive predictive value for active *H. pylori* infection. Therefore, a positive result cannot be used to accurately predict the presence of active disease
- *H. pylori* IgG does not differentiate past from current infection.

However, Beaumont Laboratory offers 2 non-invasive diagnostic assays for *H. pylori* infection:

#### 1. *H. pylori* Breath Test

Patient is asked to ingest a solution containing  $^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled urea.  $^{13}\text{C}$  is a non-radioactive isotope of carbon. If *H. pylori* urease is present in the stomach, the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled urea will be degraded into ammonia and labeled carbon dioxide ( $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ ). The latter breakdown product is exhaled through normal respiration and collected in a specialized bag for subsequent testing. The value is compared to a breath sample collected prior to ingestion of the labeled urea. A positive result is indicative of an active *H. pylori* infection. Please contact the Beaumont Appointment Center at 1-800-328-8542 to schedule testing at one of the sites listed below.

#### Patient Service Center Locations for *H. pylori* Breath Test Collections:

- Macomb
- Troy/Sterling Heights
- West Bloomfield
- Royal Oak Medical Office Building
- St. Clair Shores
- Grosse Pointe
- Farmington Hills/Professional Center North  
(No appointment necessary)

#### 2. *H. pylori* Stool Antigen Test

Test detects *H. pylori* antigen in fecal specimens released from organisms lining the stomach wall. A positive result is indicative of an active *H. pylori* infection.

For additional information, access the Laboratory Test Directory at:

<http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>

*If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).*

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1-800-551-0488