

Laboratory Update



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Business Unit: [Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia](#)

Immediate Action December 23, 2011

Dear Colleague,

Please see below for immediate change effective December 24, 2011. Only changes are included – other test information remains the same unless specifically noted.

Thank you for choosing Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia and for your continued support. For additional information, we invite you to visit our Web site at www.NicholsInstitute.com/Valencia or contact Client Relations at 800-421-4449.

Respectfully Yours,

Powers Peterson, M.D., FASCP, FCAP
Medical Director

Immediate Change

Hepatitis B DNA Quantitative Real-Time PCR					
Clinical Significance:	Quantitates Hepatitis B Virus DNA down to 20 IU/mL (116 copies/mL) for establishment of a baseline and to monitor viral load. Viral loads greater than 170,000,000 IU/mL (989,000,000 copies/mL) will be run on dilution, only per client request. The most important test for determining the efficacy of antiviral treatment is quantitative HBV DNA monitoring. HBV DNA testing is useful in detecting potential disease transmission from prospective donors and for post-transplantation monitoring. Although HBeAg is considered an indirect monitor of viral replication, high viral replication may occur without circulating HBeAg, due to mutations of the virus preventing the production of HBeAg.				
Effective Date:	December 24, 2011				
Test Code:	8137				
Reference Ranges:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Hepatitis B Virus DNA:</td> <td><20 IU/mL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hepatitis B Virus DNA:</td> <td><116 copies/mL</td> </tr> </table>	Hepatitis B Virus DNA:	<20 IU/mL	Hepatitis B Virus DNA:	<116 copies/mL
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Additional Information:	Linear range: 20- 170,000,000 IU/mL or 116 - 989,000,000 copies/mL. Also affects test 2479 Hepatitis B Virus MonitR™, Chronic				
Always Message:	The method used in this test is Real-Time PCR of the pre-core region of the circular HBV genome. This test was performed using the COBAS® Ampliprep/COBAS® TaqMan® HBV Test, v2.0 (Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.)				