

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

TABLE 1. Typical interpretation of serologic test results for hepatitis B virus infection

HBsAg*	Serologic marker			Interpretation
	Total anti-HBc†	IgM§ anti-HBc	Anti-HBs¶	
-**	-	-	-	Never infected
+††§§	-	-	-	Early acute infection; transient (up to 18 days) after vaccination
+	+	+	-	Acute infection
-	+	+	-	Acute resolving infection
-	+	-	+	Recovered from past infection and immune
+	+	-	-	Chronic infection
-	+	-	-	False positive (i.e., susceptible); past infection; "low-level" chronic infection; ¶¶ passive transfer to infant born to HBsAg-positive mother
-	-	-	+	Immune if concentration is ≥ 10 mIU/mL,*** passive transfer after hepatitis B immune globulin administration

* Hepatitis B surface antigen.

† Antibody to hepatitis B core antigen.

§ Immunoglobulin M.

¶ Antibody to HBsAg.

** Negative test result.

†† Positive test result.

§§ To ensure that an HBsAg-positive test result is not a false positive, samples with repeatedly reactive HBsAg results should be tested with a licensed (and, if appropriate, neutralizing confirmatory) test.

¶¶ Persons positive for only anti-HBc are unlikely to be infectious except under circumstances in which they are the source for direct percutaneous exposure of susceptible recipients to large quantities of virus (e.g., blood transfusion or organ transplant).

*** Milli-International Units per milliliter.