

Ordering Serology Tests

Quick reference guide

In general, the nomenclature of test codes is as follows:

- **Antibody detection:** [**Organism name or syndrome**] followed by **Serology** ± followed by [**Antibody type**]
 - For example, **Barmah Forest Virus Serology IgM**
- **Antigen detection:** [**Organism name or syndrome**] followed by **Antigen**
 - For example, **Dengue NS1 Antigen**
- **Nucleic acid amplification (PCR):** [**Organism name or syndrome**] followed by **PCR** ± followed by [**Quantitative** or **Qualitative**]
 - For example **CMV PCR Quantitative**

Intended request: syndromes/pathogen groups	Specific pathogens	Test code(s) in Powerchart	Notes
Hepatitis viruses	Hepatitis A virus: individual markers	<i>Hepatitis A Serology IgM</i>	▪ Test for recent hepatitis A infection
		<i>Hepatitis A Serology IgG</i>	▪ Test for immunity from past hepatitis A infection or vaccination
		<i>Hepatitis A PCR</i>	▪ Test for confirmation of hepatitis A IgM or for diagnostic use or genotyping. Not for routine diagnostic use
	Hepatitis B virus: individual markers	<i>Hepatitis B Serology Surface Antigen</i>	▪ Test for acute or chronic hepatitis B infection
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology Surface Antibody</i>	▪ Test for immunity from past hepatitis B infection or vaccination
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology Core Antibody</i>	▪ Test for recent or past hepatitis B infection
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology Core Antibody IgM</i>	▪ Test for recent hepatitis B infection
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology e Antigen</i>	▪ Test for increased hepatitis B infection infectivity (only request if Hepatitis B Surface Antigen is positive)
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology e Antibody</i>	▪ Test for lower hepatitis B infection infectivity (only request if Hepatitis B Surface Antigen is positive)
		<i>Hepatitis B Serology Surface Antigen Quantitative</i>	▪ Test for monitoring of anti-viral therapy of hepatitis B; not for diagnosis
		<i>Hepatitis B PCR Qualitative</i>	▪ Test for screening of solid organ and tissue donors
		<i>Hepatitis B PCR Quantitative</i>	▪ Test for monitoring of anti-viral therapy of hepatitis B; not for diagnosis
	<i>Hepatitis B Sequencing for YMDD Mutation</i>	▪ Test for lamivudine resistance mutation	
	Hepatitis B virus: multiple markers	<i>Hepatitis B Full Screen</i>	▪ Test for hepatitis B infection status; includes: Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis B Surface Antibody, and Hepatitis B Core Antibody
	Hepatitis C virus: individual markers	<i>Hepatitis C Serology</i>	▪ Test for diagnosis of hepatitis C infection
<i>Hepatitis C Antigen</i>		▪ Test for diagnosis in seronegative 'window period'	
<i>Hepatitis C PCR Quantitative Viral Load</i>		▪ Test for monitoring of anti-viral therapy of hepatitis C; Not for	

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			routine diagnostic use
		<i>Hepatitis C Genotyping</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for prediction of respond to anti-viral therapy
	Acute hepatitis A, B, and C virus: multiple markers	<i>Acute Hepatitis A/B/C Screen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for acute hepatitis A, B, C infection; includes: Hepatitis A IgM, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis B surface antibody, Hepatitis B core total antibody and Hepatitis C antibody
	Hepatitis D: individual markers	<i>Hepatitis D Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for hepatitis D infection (only request if evidence of current hepatitis B infection)
		<i>Hepatitis D PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for confirmation and management of hepatitis D infection [requires authorisation]
	Hepatitis E: individual markers	<i>Hepatitis E Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for hepatitis E infection. Test only performed with appropriate travel history or animal contact
Herpes group viruses	Herpes simplex viruses (HSV)	<i>HSV Type 1 and 2 Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past infection with HSV type 1 and/or type 2. Test not generally useful for diagnosis of primary HSV infection (use test codes HSV Type 1 PCR, HSV Type 2 PCR) Not to be ordered in children <12mths of age.
		<i>HSV Type 1 PCR, HSV Type 2 PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active (primary or recurrent) HSV infection. Test performed on dry vesicle swabs, CSF, invasively-collected eye specimens etc
	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	<i>CMV Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past infection with CMV in children >12mths of age.
		<i>CMV Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent (primary or recurrent) infection with CMV
		<i>CMV Avidity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for avidity of CMV IgG only where the diagnosis of acute primary infection is critical (e.g. in early pregnancy)
		<i>CMV PCR Qualitative</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for severe (e.g. central nervous system or tissue-invasive) CMV infection only. Test performed on serum, CSF, invasively-collected eye specimens, tissue specimens etc
		<i>CMV Quantitative</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for quantitative detection of CMV DNA in blood specimens of immunosuppressed patients only
	Epstein Barr virus (EBV)	<i>EBV Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past infection with EBV in children >12mths of age
		<i>EBV Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent (primary or recurrent) infection with EBV
		<i>EBV PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for severe (e.g. central nervous system or tissue-invasive) EBV infection only. Test performed on serum, CSF, tissue specimens etc
	Varicella zoster virus (VZV)	<i>VZV Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past infection with VZV in children >12mths of age
		<i>VZV Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent (primary or recurrent) infection with VZV
		<i>VZV Varicella Zoster PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active (primary or recurrent) VZV infection. Test performed on dry vesicle swabs,

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			CSF, invasively-collected eye specimens etc
	Other human Herpes viruses	<i>Human Herpes Virus Type 6 Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent HHV-6 infection
		<i>Human Herpes Virus 6 PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for severe (e.g. central nervous system or tissue-invasive) HHV-6, -7, or -8 infection only. Test performed on serum, CSF, tissue specimens etc Note HHV-7 and -8 PCR tests are not performed at Pathology Queensland [requires authorisation]
		<i>Human Herpes Virus 7 PCR</i>	
		<i>Human Herpes Virus 8 PCR</i>	
Pneumonia	Legionella spp.	<i>Legionella Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serological diagnosis best made with paired acute and convalescent (i.e. 10-14 days later) serum samples
		<i>Legionella Urinary Antigen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only detects <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1
	Chlamydia (Chlamydia) pneumoniae or C. psittaci	<i>Chlamydia pneumonia Serology IgA and IgG or Chlamydia pneumonia Serology or Psittacosis Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serological diagnosis requires paired acute and convalescent (i.e. 10-14 days later) serum samples. Acute sample will be stored and not tested until receipt of second sample
	Mycoplasma pneumonia	<i>Mycoplasma pneumonia Serology or Atypical pneumonia Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that test code Atypical Pneumonia Serology will only have Mycoplasma pneumoniae serology performed. Other markers are required to be specifically requested
	Streptococcus pneumoniae	<i>Streptococcus pneumonia Urinary Antigen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not request test code Pneumococcal Serology (test only performed for assessment of immunodeficiency)
	Haemophilus influenzae	<i>Nil specific tests</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not request test code Haemophilus influenza Type B Serology IgG (test only performed for assessment of immunodeficiency)
	Bordetella pertussis	<i>Bordetella pertussis Serology IgA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent pertussis infection [Not suitable for immune status or post-vaccination check]
		<i>Bordetella pertussis PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active pertussis infection. Test performed on nasopharyngeal swab or nasopharyngeal aspirate
	Respiratory viruses	<i>Respiratory Virus PCR – Respiratory Syncytial Virus Direct Antigen Test performed here first on aspirates from patients <5 years old]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test only performed on nasopharyngeal swab, nasopharyngeal aspirate, or bronchoscopically-collected respiratory tract specimens
	Cryptococcus neoformans	<i>Cryptococcal Antigen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test can be performed on serum or CSF
Aspergillus spp.	<i>Aspergillus Galactomannan Antigen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test can be performed on serum or bronchoscopically-collected respiratory tract specimens. In general, not a routine test. Contact Clinical Microbiologist or Infectious Diseases Physician [requires authorisation] Do not request test code 	

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			<i>Aspergillus precipitins</i> (test only performed for assessment of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis)
Meningitis/encephalitis	Neisseria meningitidis	<i>Neisseria meningitidis PCR or Meningococcal PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on CSF or EDTA blood
	Streptococcus pneumoniae	<i>Streptococcus pneumonia PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on CSF or EDTA blood
	Herpes simplex viruses	<i>HSV Type 1 PCR and HSV Type 2 PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not request test codes HSV Type1 and Type 2 Serology IgG for suspected herpes meningoencephalitis
	Enteroviruses	<i>Enterovirus PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not request test code Enterovirus Serology or Coxsackie virus Serology for suspected enteroviral meningitis
	Cryptococcus spp.	<i>Cryptococcal Antigen</i>	
<i>India Ink Stain for Cryptococcus microscopy</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for direct detection of cryptococcal cells in CSF
Viral exanthems	Measles	<i>Measles Virus Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for immunity from past measles infection or vaccination
		<i>Measles Virus Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent measles infection
		<i>Measles Virus PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active measles infection. Test performed on dry throat swab or urine. Contact with Infectious Diseases Physician, Clinical Microbiologist, or Public Health Physician required prior to request
	Mumps	<i>Mumps Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for immunity from past mumps infection or vaccination
		<i>Mumps Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent mumps infection
		<i>Mumps PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active mumps infection. Test performed on dry throat swab or urine.
	Rubella	<i>Rubella Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for immunity from past rubella infection or vaccination in children >12mths of age
		<i>Rubella Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent rubella infection
		<i>Rubella Virus PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for active rubella infection. Test performed on serum.
	Parvovirus	<i>Parvovirus B19 Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past parvovirus infection
		<i>Parvovirus B19 Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent parvovirus infection
		<i>Parvovirus B19 PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for severe parvovirus infection. Test performed on blood, bone marrow tissue, other tissues etc
Arboviruses	Ross River virus	<i>Ross River Virus IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent Ross River virus infection
	Barmah Forest virus	<i>Barmah Forest Virus IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent Barmah Forest virus infection
	Dengue virus	<i>Dengue NS1 antigen and Dengue Virus IgM and Dengue Virus IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent or past Dengue virus infection
		<i>Dengue Virus PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test in conjunction with Dengue NS1 antigen and Flavivirus Serology

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	Multiple markers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test useful in early illness stage when serology may be negative
		<i>Flavivirus Group Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for flaviviruses (including both Dengue and encephalitic flaviviruses)
		<i>Flavivirus Group PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for flaviviruses (including both Dengue and encephalitic flaviviruses)
Zoonoses	Q Fever	<i>Q Fever Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent or past Q Fever infection. Indicate if chronic Q Fever is clinically suspected
		<i>Q Fever Pre-vaccination Screen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for pre-vaccination screening
		<i>Q Fever PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test should only be requested in early stage of severe Q Fever illness. Contact laboratory
	Rickettsial diseases	<i>Rickettsia Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for both spotted fever group (e.g. <i>R. australis</i>/Queensland tick typhus) and scrub typhus group (e.g. <i>O. tsutsugamushi</i>) rickettsial diseases
		<i>Spotted Fever Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for spotted fever group (e.g. <i>R. australis</i>/Queensland tick typhus) rickettsial disease
		<i>Scrub Typhus Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for scrub typhus group (e.g. <i>O. tsutsugamushi</i>) rickettsial diseases
	Bartonellosis/Cat scratch disease	<i>Bartonella henselae Serology IgG or Cat Scratch Disease Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent or past infection with <i>B. henselae</i>
		<i>Bartonella henselae PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on tissue or fluid
	Brucellosis	<i>Brucella Serology IgG and IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent or past infection with <i>Brucella</i> spp.
	Leptospirosis	<i>Leptospirosis Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent infection with <i>Leptospira interrogans</i> sp
		<i>Leptospirosis PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test useful in early illness stage when serology may be negative
		<i>Leptospirosis Culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on blood. Contact laboratory
	Lyme disease	<i>Lyme Serology- Provide Travel History</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed only with appropriate travel history
	Toxoplasmosis	<i>Toxoplasma Serology IgG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for past infection with <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> in children >12mths of age
		<i>Toxoplasma Serology IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent (primary or recurrent) infection with <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>
		<i>Toxoplasma Serology IgG and IgM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above
<i>Toxoplasma PCR</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for severe active (primary or recurrent central nervous system or tissue-invasive) toxoplasmosis Test performed on CSF, invasively-collected eye specimens etc 	
Hydatid disease	<i>Hydatid Serology or Echinococcus granulosus Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent or past hydatid infection 	

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	Amoebiasis	<i>Amoebiasis Serology or Entamoeba histolytica Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent amoebiasis
	Strongyloidiasis	<i>Strongyloides Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent strongyloidiasis Faeces may be cultured for <i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>: contact laboratory
	Schistosomiasis	<i>Schistosomiasis Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for recent schistosomiasis
Exotic or travel-related infections	Various pathogens	<i>Various tests possible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Infectious Diseases Physician or Clinical Microbiologist for specific advice
Rheumatic Fever disease	Group A streptococci	<i>Streptococcus Group A Serology Antistreptolysin O ASOT Anti Dnase B</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for both ASOT and anti-DNase B
Syphilis	Syphilis screening	<i>Syphilis Serology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests initially for Syphilis EIA; if positive, TPPA and RPR performed Do not routinely request test codes <i>Treponema pallidum Serology IgM or FTA</i>
	Syphilis treatment follow up or children under 1 year	<i>RPR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test for treatment follow up or children under 1 year
	Neurosyphilis	<i>CSF VDRL</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed only on CSF
	Syphilitic chancre	<i>Treponema pallidum Syphilis PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed only on dry swab of syphilitic chancre
HIV	HIV screening	<i>HIV Serology Antibody/Antigen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional HIV tests should only be requested with expert advice
Occupational/needle stick exposures	From source patient	<i>Needle stick injury – Source/Patient</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV antibody/antigen
	From recipient/staff member: initial test	<i>Needle stick injury – Recipient/Staff Member</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for Hepatitis B surface antibody, Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV antibody/antigen
	From recipient/staff member: follow up test	<i>Needle stick injury – Follow Up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests for Hepatitis C antibody and HIV antibody/antigen
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Chlamydia trachomatis	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on dry swab and/or first catch urine
	Neisseria gonorrhoea	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoea PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on dry swab and/or first catch urine
	Trichomonas vaginalis	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test performed on dry swab and/or first catch urine