

Hepatitis B Serology Guide

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Marker Interpretation

Status	HBsAg	Anti-HBs	Anti-HBc (IgM)	Anti-HBc (Total)	HBeAg
Susceptible	–	–	–	–	–
Vaccinated	–	+	–	–	–
Acute Infection	+	–	+	+	+
Chronic Infection	+	–	–	+	+/-
Recovered	–	+	–	+	–

Key Memory Tips

- **HBsAg** = “Surface” = Currently infected (acute or chronic)
- **Anti-HBs** = “Surface antibody” = Immune (vaccine OR recovered)
- **Anti-HBc IgM** = Recent/Acute infection (“M = Months ago”)
- **Anti-HBc Total** = Ever exposed (does NOT distinguish vaccine vs infection)
- **Vaccine ONLY** gives Anti-HBs — if Anti-HBc is also positive, they were infected
- **HBeAg** = Highly infectious, active viral replication

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