



laboratory  
reference  
centre  

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Service Education Research

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M e m o

TO: REFERRING CLIENTS

FROM: Barb Baltzer, Coordinator  
Laboratory Reference Centre (LRC)  
Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRLMP)

DATE: May 24, 2011

SUBJECT: **IL28B Genotyping Test for Resistance to Hepatitis C Virus**

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HRLMP has a new test that will be useful in the management of patients with Hepatitis C Infection. This pharmacogenetic test is based upon analysis of patient DNA (*not* Hepatitis C Viral DNA). The test assays 3 DNA sequence variants in the region of the gene IL28B, which codes for an interleukin protein with a central role in the development of a response to HCV Infection. These variants have a strong correlation with: a) spontaneous clearance of the virus in the acute phase of infection, and/or b) achieving sustained viral clearance after therapy for chronic HCV hepatitis. The test therefore helps clinicians to predict which patients will be able to completely clear HCV after treatment. This test may be useful in management of HCV-infected patients in several ways. For example, it may help identify patients who are more likely to complete therapy successfully despite co-morbidities, or help differentiate potential causes of poor treatment outcomes (e.g. non-compliance vs susceptibility).

**Alternate Names:** Hepatitis C Resistance, HCV Resistance, Hepatitis C Resistance

**Specimen Requirements:** 4 mL EDTA (lavender) tube, Whole Blood  
Minimum volume: 1 mL EDTA (lavender) tube, Whole Blood  
Sample stable at room temperature or 4°C to 8°C.

**TAT:** 14 days

**Method:** Real Time PCR

**Referred To:** Bay Area Genetic Laboratory, Chedoke Site – Sir William Osler Building, Rm 205B

**Price:** \$180.00

Questions about the IL28B Genotyping test should be directed to Dr. Ron Carter at the Bay Area Genetic Laboratory (905-385-1020 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; after hours 905-979-0250).