



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

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Consultant Virologist

Dear Colleague,

**Our reference:**

**Re: Patient reference:**  
**Specimen Reference:**

**Date of birth:**  
**Sample date:**

**Enhanced surveillance of hepatitis A**

The incidence of hepatitis A in the UK has declined in the past decades. However sporadic cases continue to be reported, resulting from contaminated food and water exposure or unknown secondary person-to-person transmission. Point-source outbreaks related to contaminated food remain uncommon in the UK.

Enhanced surveillance of acute infection has been established in the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and data on all reported cases of hepatitis A, including associated exposure information, is now being collected in all local UKHSA centres. To compliment this epidemiological surveillance, UKHSA would like to undertake sequence-based typing on all infections to aid in identifying geographical origin of non-travel related strains. In that context, UKHSA laboratories were asked to refer samples from recent cases of hepatitis A to the Virus Reference Department (VRD) for sequencing (Briefing Note 2011/054). This service is provided free of charge for cases reported via Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS), using the referral form provided.

We would be grateful if you could refer a residual sample from the case of hepatitis A infection reported to UKHSA as above. Laboratories are requested to use the attached form to ensure that they will not be charged. Information on the genotype will be returned within 3 weeks of receipt of the sample at VRD. This request has been generated based on a positive hepatitis A virus (HAV) Immunoglobulin M (IgM) report on SGSS. If you have already forwarded the sample to VRD or the result on SGSS is a false positive, we would be grateful if you could fill in and return the attached form.

Yours sincerely

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**Genotyping analysis of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infections**

**(Sample referral form)**

**Project code: SHAVACU**

Patient name			
Date of birth	DD MM YYYY	Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
NHS number			

Laboratory and/or hospital name			
Laboratory sample number		Sample date	DD MM YYYY
Jaundice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Jaundice onset date	DD MM YYYY
Laboratory contact name		Telephone number	

Available serology result			
Test	Status (positive, negative, unknown)	Units, optical density/cut off or sample/cut off	Assay or test
Anti-HAV Immunoglobulin G (IgG)			
Anti-HAV Immunoglobulin M (IgM)			

Please send in aliquot of the **FIRST** sample which led to a report of Hepatitis A.

Please include this form with the sample when dispatching.

If sample is not being forwarded from this patient, please tick one of the reasons below and return for our records.

- Sample already sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD)
- Sample false known positive
- Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) error, patient not tested for anti-HAV IgM
- No sample remaining

Please send to:

Dr Siew Lin Ngui  
Virus Reference Department, UKHSA,  
61 Colindale Avenue, London, NW9 5EQ

If you have any queries, please contact Dr Siew Lin Ngui  
Tel: 020 8327 6610 Email: [siewlin.ngui@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:siewlin.ngui@ukhsa.gov.uk)