

Name
Hospital
Address

Date

Dear _____:

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is currently evaluating reporting of viral hepatitis testing by laboratories in Minnesota. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requires the perinatal and viral hepatitis programs to do lab audits of all Minnesota labs that conduct hepatitis testing to evaluate the reporting of positive test results to MDH. I am writing to request a line listing of all positive hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and IgM hepatitis A virus antibody (IgM anti-HAV) test results from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 that were conducted at your lab.

In regard to protected information, MDH is exempt from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule which means that you are allowed to share this information without permission from the patient. CDC has a letter and FAQ about HIPAA which can be accessed at:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/policies/downloads/hipaa_letter.pdf

Personally identifiable information will not be shared with anyone outside the MDH. Aggregate audit data will be shared with the CDC.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please call me if you have further questions or concerns. We look forward to receiving your line listing soon.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Anderson RN, BSN, CIC
Perinatal Hepatitis B Program Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert St N (street address)
PO Box 64975 (mailing address)
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
Office: 651-201-5557
FAX: 651-201-5502