**Helicobacter pylori Diagnostic Algorithm**

**Alarm Features**:
- Overt gastrointestinal bleeding (melena, hematemesis), unintentional weight loss, family history of gastric or esophageal cancer, palpable abdominal or epigastric mass, abnormal adenopathy, iron deficiency, anemia, persistent vomiting, dysphagia, odynophagia.

**Patients <3 years**
- EPIC LAB397
- HPYLBM/Helicobacter pylori Antigen, Stool

**Patients 3 to 54 years**
- EPIC LAB572
- HPYLBM/Helicobacter pylori Breath Test
- OR
- EPIC LAB397
- SHPAG/Helicobacter pylori Antigen, Stool

**Adults ≥ 55 years**
- EPIC LAB2255
- Surgical Pathology

**Endoscopy with biopsy**

**YES**

**EPIC LAB2255**

**Surgical Pathology**

**POSITIVE**
- Treat for Helicobacter pylori infection

**NEGATIVE**
- Evaluate for other causes of dyspepsia

**Optional:**
Monitor treatment for efficacy or confirmation of eradication:
- EPIC LAB572
- HPYLBM/Helicobacter pylori Breath Test
- OR
- EPIC LAB397
- SHPAG/Helicobacter pylori Antigen, Stool

**POSITIVE**
- Treat for Helicobacter pylori infection

**NEGATIVE**
- Evaluate for other causes of dyspepsia

**STOP**

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1. Breath test, stool antigen, histology with special staining for H pylori organisms, and/or culture are the gold standard tests for diagnosis of H pylori infection.
2. Mayo Medical Laboratories utilizes the POcone Infrared Spectrophotometer; performance characteristics for this instrument havenot been established for persons under age 3. For patients 3 to 17 years, age, weight and height must be included in test request for appropriate result interpretation.
3. According to the 2007 American College of Gastroenterologists guidelines and Talley* et al, serology should be avoided or positive results should be confirmed with a test that identifies an active infection such as the urea breath test or stool antigen test. Serology is no longer performed at UnityPoint Health – Des Moines Laboratories as of May 2016.
4. Confirmation of eradication testing should not be ordered until 2 to 4 weeks after cessation of treatment. Proton pump inhibitors and antisecretory drugs should be discontinued for at least 1 week prior to assessment of H pylori eradication.

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