April 7, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

In February 2010, Novartis Diagnostics withdrew several lots of the Chiron RIBA Hepatitis C Virus 3.0 SIA (Strip Immunoblot Assay) from the market due to issues regarding false positive results.

As you know, hepatitis C is a reportable communicable disease in Michigan. False positive RIBAs would have an impact on the accuracy of the information in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System's (MDSS) case reports, and may result in incorrect classification of hepatitis C disease status.

As a result, the Bureau of Laboratories at the Michigan Department of Community Health is requesting laboratories that have retested specimens that were RIBA positive with the defective lots and now identified as false positive(s) contact their local health department so that the necessary corrections can be made in the MDSS case reports.

More recall information can be found at FDA's website:
http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/Recalls/ucm204235.htm

Please feel free to contact Anthony Muyombwe PhD at the Bureau of Laboratories at 517-335-8099, email muyombwea@michigan.gov; or for questions about hepatitis C case reporting, contact Lori Stegmier, MA, CHES of the HIV/AIDS, STD, Viral Hepatitis and TB Epidemiology Section at 517-335-8570, email stegmierl@michigan.gov .

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