

Subject: **Clostridium difficile, Toxogenic, PCR**

Effective Date: Thursday January 20, 2011

The Microbiology Department will change from our current EIA methodology to an FDA-approved PCR-based assay (GeneXpert, Cepheid) for toxogenic C.difficile testing, which provides excellent sensitivity and specificity (94.4% and 96.3% respectively). This molecular methodology is considered the fastest, most accurate technology available. The increased accuracy will decrease the number of repeat tests being performed currently, making the PCR a more cost effective test.

Clostridium difficile is the leading cause of Healthcare-associated infectious diarrhea in the United States and is responsible for increased morbidity, length of hospital stay and cost. Rapid, accurate identification of C.difficile infection improves patient care and safety, can greatly reduce cost, and allows for improved infection control measures. A one day earlier diagnosis based on PCR results for cases called negative by EIA would save thousands of dollars a year.

This testing will be available 7 days a week on all shifts and if ordered STAT has a Turn-Around-Time of approximately 1 hour from receipt in the lab.

For additional information please contact:

Microbiology Department
206.368.1365

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206.368.2043

Test ID Test Name	
Effective Date:	
Alternate Test Names:	C.difficile toxin assay
Container Type:	Fresh unpreserved liquid or soft stool in a leak-proof container
Additional Information:	Unacceptable: Formed stools, stools in preservatives, duplicate specimens within 24 hours, and specimens received within 10 days of a positive result. These will be rejected.
Testing Frequency:	Daily
Routine turn around time:	8 hours
Stat turn around time:	1 hour from receipt in Lab
Test Order Code:	CDPCR

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