

C difficile PCR a Temporary Send-Out

November 10, 2020

WHAT HAS OCCURRED

You may recall that in August of this year Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) temporary routed **Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile, C. diff)**, PCR to our referral lab due to a reagent shortage from our vendor. Unfortunately, we are again experiencing a shortage of reagents that necessitates us to send this testing to our referral lab.

TEMPORARILY NOT AVAILABLE:

LAB8691 CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE (C. DIFF.) TOXIN, BY PCR

TO BE REPLACED WITH:

LAB10787 C. DIFFICILE TOXIN GENE NAA CPT code 87493

Please note that specimens should be sent **unpreserved** and **submit same day as collected**.

TAT 2 days

Specimen Requirements

- Stool (unformed)
- Volume 5g (approximately the size of a walnut)
- Minimum Volume 0.5 g or 0.5 mL liquid stool

Container

- Sterile screw-cap container or stool transport without preservatives (Para-Pak® white clean vial). "Cool Whip" containers, denture cups, or other similar containers often leak or even explode during transport and may be rejected by the laboratory.

Storage Instructions

- Specimen should be kept at 2°C to 8°C and transported to the laboratory same day as collected.
- Do not freeze.

Causes for Rejection

- Unlabeled specimen or name discrepancy between specimen and test request label; quantity insufficient; formed stools; frozen stool; stool in preservative; specimens other than stool; improper storage or transport device; grossly leaking specimens; specimen older than 24 hours that is stored at room temperature, or specimen older than five days stored at 2°C to 8°C

EXPECTED RESOLUTION

We are working closely with our vendor on our reagent supply. We will provide an update when this testing is once again available in house.

Our apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT (805) 879-8100

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