

New Tests Available Sept 22, 2009

C. difficile GDH/Toxin Rapid EIA and C. difficile Toxin B PCR



We are pleased to announce a new service for our healthcare providers. Starting September 22, 2009, we will update our current C. difficile toxin EIA assay to a more sensitive test that detects both the GDH common antigen (Glutamate Dehydrogenase) and Toxins A and B.

On the same day, we will begin offering the extremely sensitive C. difficile Toxin B PCR. This FDA-approved test is **the most sensitive test available for toxin detection.**

In the hospital setting, the most cost effective and rapid algorithm employs GDH/Toxin testing on site with GDH positive/Toxin negative specimens being reflexed for PCR confirmation. We will offer both the GDH/Toxin assay and the PCR assay as individually orderable tests.

****NOTE** - All GDH positive/Toxin negative specimens will be reflexed for PCR confirmation as ~50% of these are positive for toxin producing C difficile.

CLINICAL INFORMATION:

Clostridium difficile, is a spore-forming bacterium that can cause symptoms ranging from diarrhea to life-threatening inflammation of the colon. Illness from C. difficile most commonly affects older adults in hospitals or in long term care facilities and typically occurs after use of antibiotic medications.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

Specimen source: Liquid or soft Stool, maintains shape of container
Specimen stability: 72 hours refrigerated; >72 hours frozen

GDH/TOXIN EIA

Soft order code: CDF2
CPT: 87324

TOXIN B PCR

Soft order code: CDPCR
CPT: 87798