

PDL UPDATE:

# C difficile PCR Temporary Send-Out

August 3, 2020



## WHAT HAS OCCURRED

Due to a vendor reagent shortage Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) will temporarily route **Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile, C. diff) PCR** to our referral laboratory, LabCorp (LCA).

### TEST TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE:

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

### LCA REPLACEMENT:

**LAB10787 C. DIFFICILE TOXIN GENE NAA** CPT code 87493

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

Turnaround Time: 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

PDL's vendor indicates the reagent will be available in September and an update will be provided when testing is once again available in house.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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