



LABORATORY UPDATE

October 13th, 2017

New Test Notification

Clostridium difficile by PCR

Dear Physician(s) and Staff,

Effective October 16, 2017, Enzo Clinical Laboratory will introduce a new test method for *Clostridium difficile* ordered as ***Clostridium difficile* PCR** to complement the current *Clostridium difficile* Toxin A & B. The new *Clostridium difficile* PCR assay provides improved high sensitivity and specificity due to real-time PCR technology. The differences between the current and new *C. difficile* tests are summarized below:

	NEW	CURRENT
TEST NAME:	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> PCR	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> Toxin A & B
TEST CODE:	4009	5087
REFERENCE RANGE:	Positive/Negative	Positive/Negative
REPORTABLE RANGE:	Positive/Negative/Indeterminate	Positive/Negative
SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:	Stool –Sterile cup (liquid or soft unformed specimen) 2-25°C for 2 days 2-8°C for 5 days Do Not Freeze	Stool- Sterile cup (liquid or soft unformed specimen) 2-8°C for 4 days, or Frozen until tested
TURN AROUND TIME:	2 days	2 days
SENSITIVITY/SPECIFICITY:	High	Low (may lead to missed cases of CDI)

The new *Clostridium difficile* by PCR assay is a qualitative in vitro diagnostic test designed to detect *C. difficile* toxin B gene (*tcdB*) in human liquid or soft stool specimens suspected of having *C. difficile* infection (CDI). The combination of a highly sensitive and specific assay with rapid available results may allow for prompt treatment of CDI patients and have potential improvement in patient outcomes and reduced recovery times.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to serve you and your patients and welcome any questions or concerns you may have. You can reach us at 631-755-5500 or talk to your Enzo Clinical Labs Sales and/or Service Representative for more information.

Sincerely,

Dieter Schapfel, MD
Medical Director