

TEST UPDATE

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE TOXIN A AND B BY ELISA

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OVERVIEW AND CLINICAL UTILITY:

Beginning March 10, 2014, PathGroup Labs will discontinue testing for Clostridium difficile toxins A and B by ELISA methodology and will perform direct detection of toxigenic C. Difficile strains by DNA amplification. The test will be performed Monday through Friday and may be performed on pediatric as well as adult specimens. The DNA amplification method is more sensitive and specific than the ELISA test.

Testing is to be performed on unformed stools only. Formed stool specimens will be rejected. In addition, repeated testing during the same bout of diarrhea or to follow treatment is not recommended.

TEST CODE AND ORDERING INFORMATION:

OLD TEST CODE BY ELISA	CPT	LOINC
CDIF	87324	34468-9

NEW TEST CODE BY DNA AMPLIFICATION	CPT	LOINC
CDIFF	87493	34713-8

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE:

- Raw Stool or stool preserved in Cary-Blair based transport medium.
- Transport Refrigerated (2-8°C).
- Unformed stools only.

Questions concerning this change may be directed to Client Services at 615-562-9300 or 888-474-5227