

CLOSTRIDIODES  
(CLOSTRIDIUM)  
DIFFICILE TOXIN

## Orderable - CDIFT

Turnaround Time: 1 day

### Alternate Name(s):

C. difficile  
CDIFT

### Specimen Type and Collection Information:

Specimen	Collection Information
Liquid or unformed stool	5-10 mL collected in a sterile container, formed stools are unacceptable and will not be processed

### Special Processing:

Samples are processed by a PCR screening technique (toxin gene). If results are positive, the specimen is tested by enzyme immunoassay (toxin protein)

### Comments:

*C. difficile* testing is indicated for patients with unexplained new-onset diarrhea ( $\geq 3$  unformed stools within the last 24 hours).

Toxin testing is not performed on children less than 2 years of age. Children may carry *C. difficile* asymptotically. Presence of this toxin may not be diagnostic of infection.

Testing is not routinely performed in children with diarrhea who are 1-2 years of age unless other infectious causes have been excluded. Contact the Microbiologist on call for approval (Pager#19000).

Only one sample will be processed per patient within a 7-day period. Specimens previously positive will not be repeated for at least 14 days. If patient condition changes and testing is required, page Microbiologist on call for approval (Pager#19000).



**Laboratory:**  
Microbiology



**Requisition:**  
Electronic Order



**Method of Analysis:**  
PCR  
Enzyme Immunoassay



**Test Schedule:**  
Batched and performed  
twice daily

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**Storage and Shipment:**

The specimen must be refrigerated.

The specimen must be received within 24 hours of collection.