Orderable - CDIFT
Turnaround Time: 1 day

Alternate Name(s):
C. difficile
CDIFT

Specimen Type and Collection Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Collection Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid or unformed stool</td>
<td>5-10 mL collected in a sterile container, formed stools are unacceptable and will not be processed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 (≥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* asymptomatically. 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).
**Storage and Shipment:**

The specimen must be refrigerated.
The specimen must be received within 24 hours of collection.