

# News

## Clinical Laboratory Test Update

### *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) Reflex Test

Effective July 1, 2019, a two-step reflex testing algorithm will be in place for *Clostridioides difficile* testing.

The first step consists of testing for the C. diff toxin gene via the CDIFFICILE TOXIN PCR test currently in use; there is no change to turnaround time for this test.

Negative PCR tests will not reflex to further testing.

Positive PCR tests will reflex to a C. diff toxin A and B test. Results will be available next day. For negative reflex test results, best practice suggests testing up to three sequential stool samples.

Interpretive information for the C. difficile toxin A and B test is as follows:

This test employs a horizontal-flow enzyme immunoassay for detecting C. difficile toxins A and B. Clinical correlation is necessary for interpretation of results. A negative test does not exclude C. difficile infection. While relatively stable at 2-8 °C, C. difficile toxins, particularly at low concentrations, can easily degrade at room temperatures. This test has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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