

# News

## Clinical Laboratory Test Update

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

Effective July 1, 2019, a two-step reflex testing algorithm began for *Clostridioides difficile* testing.

The first step consists of testing for the C. diff toxin gene via the CDIFFICILE TOXIN PCR test (LAB3716).

Negative PCR tests do not reflex to further testing.

Positive (Detected) PCR tests reflex to a C. diff toxin A and B test (LAB894). Results are usually available next day.

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.

CPT Codes:

87493 – CDIFTOXPCR

87324 – TOXIN EIA (CDIF)

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