



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE PCR (QUALITATIVE)

Synonym(s):

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Lab Section Category	Molecular Diagnostics - Microbiology Click here to find out more about the write-up (/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/moleculardiagnosics.aspx).
Indications	a) Direct testing for suspected <i>C. difficile</i> infection. b) Confirmation of discordant enzyme immunoassay results, i.e. when stool samples tested positive for Glutamate Dehydrogenase (GDH) but negative for toxin production.
Specimen Required	Stool (unformed)
Storage and Transport	Refrigerate sample until transfer to laboratory. Do not freeze . Send sample at 2 - 8°C (with an ice-pack). Sample should reach the laboratory as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours after collection.
Method	Commercial real-time PCR - Cepheid Xpert <i>C. difficile</i>
Test Result	Detected, Not Detected or Inconclusive
Turnaround Time	1 working day
Day(s) Test Set up	Monday to Saturday
Remarks	This PCR assay detects Toxin B gene only for all toxigenic <i>C.difficile</i> . This test can also presumptively identify the hypervirulent <i>C. difficile</i> 027/BI/NAP1 epidemic strain, but may not detect certain rare strains of <i>C.difficile</i> .

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