
Reporting Title: C. difficile Culture

Performing Location: Rochester

Ordering Guidance:

If susceptibilities are also desired, order CDIFS / *Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile* Culture with Antimicrobial Susceptibilities, Varies

This is **not the preferred diagnostic test** for *Clostridioides difficile*. For routine diagnostic testing, order CDPCR / *Clostridioides difficile* Toxin, PCR, Feces.

Additional Testing Requirements:

If susceptibility testing is needed; also order MMLSA / Antimicrobial Susceptibility, Anaerobic Bacteria, MIC, Varies. Susceptibility testing, when ordered, would routinely include metronidazole and vancomycin. If susceptibilities are not appropriate and will not be performed, MMLSA will be canceled.

Necessary Information:

Specimen source is required.

Specimen Requirements:

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

Patient Preparation: Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication, zinc oxide paste, Vagisil cream or oily laxatives prior to specimen collection.

Preferred:

Specimen Type: Preserved feces

Supplies: Culture and Sensitivity Stool Transport Vial (T058)

Container/Tube: Commercially available transport system specific for recovery of enteric pathogens from fecal specimens (15 mL of non-nutritive transport medium containing phenol red as a pH indicator, either Cary-Blair or Para-Pak C and S)

Specimen Volume: Representative portion of feces; 5 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect 1 gram or 5 mL fresh fecal specimen and submit in container with transport medium.
2. Place feces in preservative within 2 hours of collection.

Additional Information: Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for *Clostridioides difficile* is generally not clinically indicated.

Specimen Stability Information: Ambient (preferred) 96 hours/Refrigerated 96 hours/Frozen 7 days

Acceptable:

Specimen Type: Unpreserved feces

Supplies:

-Stool container, Small (Random), 4 oz (T288)

-Stool Collection Kit, Random (T635)

Container/Tube: Stool container

Specimen Volume: Representative portion of feces

Collection Instructions: Collect fresh feces and submit representative sample in stool container.

Additional Information: Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for *Clostridioides difficile* is generally not clinically indicated.

Specimen Stability Information: Ambient (preferred) 72 hours/Frozen 7 days

Specimen Type: Fresh tissue or biopsy

Sources: Colon

Supplies: Anaerobe Transport Tube (T588)

Specimen Volume: Entire collection, 1 to 2 cm(3)

Collection Instructions: Aseptically collect 1 to 2 cm(3) piece of tissue whenever possible. In general, a larger piece of tissue is preferred. Submit in an anaerobic transport tube.

Specimen Stability Information: Ambient 72 hours

Forms:

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Gastroenterology and Hepatology Test Request](#) (T728) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Varies		

Ask at Order Entry (AOE) Questions:

Test ID	Question ID	Description	Type	Reportable
CDIF	Q00M0077	Specimen Source	Plain Text	Yes

Result Codes:

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
CDIF	C. difficile Culture	Alphanumeric		562-9

LOINC® and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

Supplemental Report:

No

CPT Code Information:

87081-C. *difficile* Culture

87076-Anaerobe Ident (if appropriate)

87076-Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe (if appropriate)

87153-Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing (if appropriate)

Reflex Tests:

Test Id	Reporting Name	CPT Units	CPT Code	Always Performed	Available Separately
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ANAID	Anaerobe Ident	1	87076	No	No, (Bill Only)
RMALA	Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe	1	87076	No	No, (Bill Only)
ISAN	Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing	1	87153	No	No, (Bill Only)

Reference Values:

No growth of *Clostridioides difficile*.