

Memo



To: AML Reference Laboratory Clients

From: Allina Medical Laboratories, Reference Laboratory Services

Date: January 30, 2007

Re: *Clostridium difficile* Testing Recommendations

For detection of *Clostridium difficile* disease, Allina Medical Laboratories recommends ordering CDT/6588 *Clostridium difficile* Toxin A/B.

Clostridium difficile Tests			
	Toxin A/B (recommended)	Cytotoxin	Culture
Test	CDT / 6588	CCY / 6575	CDC / 2483
Detection	Detects Toxins A and B	Detects Toxin B only.	Does not detect toxins. Isolation of the organism only. Does not differentiate between the presence of disease and asymptomatic carriage of the organism.
Specimen	Liquid or soft stool	Liquid or soft stool	Liquid or soft stool
Container	Cary-Blair vial or clean container	Clean container	<i>Swab in Port-a-Cul anaerobic transport</i>
Transport	<u>Cary-Blair vial:</u> refrigerated or room temp within 5 days <u>Clean container:</u> refrigerated within 48 hr.	Refrigerated, overnight Or Frozen on dry ice.	Refrigerated within 48 hours
Turnaround Time	1 day	2-4 days	4-6 days