

***Clostridium difficile* – Testing Update**

Effective Date: March 6, 2018

Beaumont Laboratory (Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, Troy) will switch from stand-alone nucleic acid amplification (NAA) to a 3-step algorithm, thereby standardizing *Clostridium difficile* testing across our entire health system.

Test Information:

Name: *C. difficile* GDH/Toxin with NAA Reflex
Order Codes: EPIC: LAB7110 SOFT: CDT
CPT Codes: 87449, 87324, 87493 (reflex NAA)
Specimen: Liquid or soft stool that conforms to the shape of the collection container.
Schedule: Testing will be performed 3-4 times daily.
Summary: Testing begins with *C. difficile* antigen (GDH) and Toxin A/B. If both components are negative or positive, no further testing is required. Reflex NAA testing for the toxin gene (*tcdA* or *tcdB*) is performed when:
1. GDH (positive), Toxin A/B (negative)
2. GDH (negative), Toxin A/B (positive).

Common Test Result Scenarios:

- **GDH (negative), Toxin A/B (negative), NAA (not performed):**
NEGATIVE – toxin producing *C. difficile* not detected. The patient is unlikely to have toxigenic *C. difficile* infection.
- **GDH (positive), Toxin A/B (positive), NAA (not performed):**
POSITIVE – toxin producing *C. difficile* detected. The patient likely has toxigenic *C. difficile* infection.
- **GDH (positive), Toxin A/B (negative), NAA (positive):**
POSITIVE – toxigenic *C. difficile* detected, active toxin production not demonstrated. The patient is likely colonized with toxigenic *C. difficile*; infection cannot be excluded.
- **GDH (positive), Toxin A/B (negative), NAA (negative):**
NEGATIVE – toxin producing *C. difficile* not detected. The patient is unlikely to have toxigenic *C. difficile* infection.

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

Date submitted: February 20, 2018
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Beaumont Laboratory
Customer Service
1-800-551-0488