


Clostridium Difficile

Synonyms	CDIFF
Clinical Indication	<p>A request for a <i>C. difficile</i> test should be made if <i>C.difficile</i> infection is suspected. Refer to your local trust's <i>Clostridium difficile</i> policy. Formed stools will not be tested.</p> <p>Please give detailed clinical information including details of any recent, current or intended antibiotic therapy, date of onset and contact with any suspected infection.</p>
Part of Profile / See Also	Faeces are tested for the presence of GDH and <i>C.difficile</i> toxin
Request Form	ICE / Medway order comms request or hand completed Pathology /Microbiology request form
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request during normal working hours
Turnaround Time	24 hours
Patient Preparation	N/A
Sample Requirements	Refrigerate sample between 2°C and 8°C if there is to be a delay in delivery to laboratory. Due to degradation of toxin, the test can only be performed on specimens up to 24 hours old. This can be extended to a maximum of 72 hours if the sample is stored at 2-8°C.
Specimen Type	Liquid or unformed faeces from inpatients and over 65-year-olds are tested. <i>C. difficile</i> testing will NOT be performed if the patient is < 2 years old or the stool sample is formed.
Volume	≥ 2mls
Container	Blue capped universal container with spoon or similar sterile container (no additives) – CE marked
	
Reference Range & Units	N/A



Accredited to
ISO 15189:2022

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)

GDH negative / toxin Negative: No evidence of infection

GDH positive / toxin negative: Likely carrier.

GDH positive / toxin positive: Indicative of *C.difficile* infection. Refer to appropriate management guidelines.

Reports will be issued with interpretive comment.

A low percentage of specimens may test negative for antigen but positive for toxin. These samples should be considered indeterminate and reported as equivocal. Repeat sample should be requested for re-testing.

References

Test code

CDSC

Lab Handling

Samples should be processed on day of receipt if sample is received at Hub Laboratory before 17:00hrs. After that time, result may not be available until the next working day.