

Clostridium Difficile EIA



C. Difficile Enzyme Immunoassay

Effective October 12, 2016, St. Luke's Laboratory will begin performing a rapid membrane enzyme immunoassay for the detection of both toxigenic and non-toxigenic strains of *C. difficile*. The EIA test will take the place of PCR testing.

This new rapid membrane enzyme immunoassay allows for the simultaneous detection of *Clostridium difficile* Glutamate Dehydrogenase Antigen and Toxins A and B in fecal specimens. The EIA test will replace the current PCR test. Any specimen that tests positive for Glutamate Dehydrogenase (GDH) and negative for toxins A and B will automatically reflex to PCR testing. The purpose of this new testing method is to distinguish between patients with true *C. difficile* infection (GDH and Toxin positive) and patients who may be asymptomatic carriers of the *C. difficile* organism (GDH positive only).

Sample Type: Unpreserved stool specimens submitted in a sterile container. Only liquid or unformed stool will be accepted. Specimens may be refrigerated for up to 72 hours prior to testing.

Test Name: *Clostridium difficile* EIA screen with reflex to PCR.

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Microbiology Laboratory 218-249-5319.