# New Test Announcement

St. Luke's Laboratory Services

## Clostridium difficile toxin Method Change, Effective 1/15/10

Effective 1/15/10, St. Luke's Laboratory will upgrade Clostridium difficile toxin methodology. The Cepheid Xpert C. difficile assay is a qualitative, in vitro diagnostic test for rapid detection of toxin B gene sequences from unformed stool specimens collected from patients suspected of having Clostridium difficile infection. The test utilizes automated real-time PCR to detect toxin gene sequences associated with toxin producing C. difficile.

## Advantages of this upgrade to PCR methodology:

- **Turn Around Time:** Our patients will be better served by shorter turn around time for C. difficile toxin testing. As of February 1st, this test will be offered 24/7 with a TAT of 1 hour from receipt in the laboratory. Timely reporting enables clinicians to administer appropriate therapy thereby improving patient management.
- **Superior Test Accuracy:** Literature claims sensitivity of the Cepheid Xpert assay is 94% vs 48% for the formerly used EIA methodology. This will greatly reduce the need for additional or repeat testing.
- **Infection control:** Rapid and accurate identification of infected patients will help control disease transmission.

## Specimen/Transport Requirements:

- Unformed stool. (Formed stool will be rejected)
- Clean, screw cap container, refrigerated. **DO NOT FREEZE**
- Sample must be received by SLH lab within 5 days of collection

**If you have questions, please contact K. Warren , M.D. (218)249-6914, Microbiology Medical Director or Deborah Fischer , MT(ASCP) (218) 249-2479, Microbiology Technical Specialist.**

## St. Luke's Laboratory Services has recently developed a Web page which contains New Test Announcements:

http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/