

**Reporting Title:** C. difficile Culture  
**Performing Location:** Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

**Ordering Guidance:**  
If susceptibilities are also desired, order CDIFS / *Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile* Culture with Antimicrobial Susceptibilities, Varies

This is **not the preferred diagnostic test** for *Clostridioides difficile*. For routine diagnostic testing, order CDPCR / *Clostridioides difficile* Toxin, PCR, Feces.

**Additional Testing Requirements:**  
If susceptibility testing is needed; also order MMLSA / Antimicrobial Susceptibility, Anaerobic Bacteria, MIC, Varies. Susceptibility testing, when ordered, would routinely include metronidazole and vancomycin. If susceptibilities are not appropriate and will not be performed, MMLSA will be canceled.

**Necessary Information:**  
Specimen source is required.

**Specimen Requirements:**  
Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

**Patient Preparation:** Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication, zinc oxide paste, Vagisil cream or oily laxatives prior to specimen collection.

**Preferred:**  
**Specimen Type:** Preserved feces  
**Supplies:** Culture and Sensitivity Stool Transport Vial (T058)  
**Container/Tube:** Commercially available transport system specific for recovery of enteric pathogens from fecal specimens (15 mL of non-nutritive transport medium containing phenol red as a pH indicator, either Cary-Blair or Para-Pak C and S)  
**Specimen Volume:** Representative portion of feces; 5 mL  
**Collection Instructions:**  
1. Collect 1 gram or 5 mL fresh fecal specimen and submit in container with transport medium.  
2. Place feces in preservative within 2 hours of collection.  
**Additional Information:** Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for *Clostridioides difficile* is generally not clinically indicated.  
**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred) 96 hours/Refrigerated 96 hours/Frozen 7 days

**Acceptable:**  
**Specimen Type:** Unpreserved feces  
**Supplies:**  
-Stool container, Small (Random), 4 oz (T288)  
-Stool Collection Kit, Random (T635)  
**Container/Tube:** Stool container  
**Specimen Volume:** Representative portion of feces  
**Collection Instructions:** Collect fresh feces and submit representative sample in stool container.

**Additional Information:** Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for *Clostridioides difficile* is generally not clinically indicated.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred) 72 hours/Frozen 7 days

**Specimen Type:** Fresh tissue or biopsy

**Sources:** Colon

**Supplies:** Anaerobe Transport Tube (T588)

**Specimen Volume:** Entire collection, 1 to 2 cm(3)

**Collection Instructions:** Aseptically collect 1 to 2 cm(3) piece of tissue whenever possible. In general, a larger piece of tissue is preferred. Submit in an anaerobic transport tube.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient 72 hours

**Forms:**

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Gastroenterology and Hepatology Test Request](#) (T728) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Varies		

Ask at Order Entry (AOE) Questions:

Test ID	Question ID	Description	Type	Reportable
CDIF	Q00M0077	Specimen Source	Plain Text	Yes

Result Codes:

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
CDIF	C. difficile Culture	Alphanumeric		562-9

LOINC® and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

**Supplemental Report:**

No

**CPT Code Information:**

87081-C. difficile Culture

87076-Anaerobe Ident (if appropriate)

87076-Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe (if appropriate)

87153-Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing (if appropriate)

Reflex Tests:

Test Id	Reporting Name	CPT Units	CPT Code	Always Performed	Available Separately
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ANAIID	Anaerobe Ident	1	87076	No	No, (Bill Only)
RMALA	Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe	1	87076	No	No, (Bill Only)
ISAN	Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing	1	87153	No	No, (Bill Only)

**Reference Values:**  
No growth of *Clostridioides difficile*.