

## ***Clostridioides difficile* Toxin, PCR, Feces**

**Test ID:** CDPCR

**Useful for:** Sensitive, specific, and rapid diagnosis of *Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile*-associated diarrhea and pseudomembranous colitis

The test **is not recommended** as a test of cure.

**Methods:**

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/Reverse Transcription-PCR

**Reference Values:**

Negative

**Specimen Requirements:**

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

**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 nonnutritive 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 fresh fecal specimen and submit in container with transport medium.
2. Place feces in preservative within 2 hours of collection.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred) <5 days/Refrigerated <5 days

**Acceptable:**

**Specimen Type:** Unpreserved feces

**Supplies:**

Stool container, Small (Random), 4 oz Random (T288)

Stool Collection Kit, Random (T635)

**Container/Tube:** Fecal container

**Specimen Volume:** Representative portion of feces

**Collection Instructions:** Collect fresh fecal specimen and submit representative sample in fecal container.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Refrigerated (preferred) <5 days/Frozen <5 days

**Specimen Stability Information:**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Fecal	Varies	5 days

**Cautions:**

The assay must be performed on fresh feces, fresh-frozen feces, or feces in transport medium.

The assay has not been validated as a test of cure. Since nucleic acid may persist after effective treatment, follow-up testing of a positive result is not recommended.

Interfering substances in the feces may affect the accuracy of the assay; results should always be interpreted in conjunction with clinical and epidemiologic findings.

Submission of more than one specimen for testing is not recommended.

Testing has not been validated for colostomy-, ileostomy-, or colonoscopically-collected specimens.

Patients may asymptotically carry *Clostridioides difficile*; clinical correlation is needed when deciding how to manage patients with a positive test result.

**CPT Code:**

87493

**Day(s) Performed:** Monday through Sunday

**Report Available:** Same day/1 day

**Questions**

Contact Brandon DeBoom, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.