

Test Update

C. difficile EIA Testing

UVM Medical Center

Effective July 29, 2026, across all sites at UVMH, *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile* or CDIFF) testing by PCR will be replaced with a two-step test that evaluates the presence or absence of glutamate dehydrogenase antigen (GDH) and *C. difficile* toxin antigen. Any test orders received for *C. difficile*, PCR (LAB3021) after 7/29/2026 will be replaced with the new *C. Difficile* EIA test by the laboratory. Although PCR testing is highly sensitive, it cannot distinguish between an active infection or colonization (not causing disease), and is likely leading to unnecessary treatment, isolation, and longer hospital stays. Testing protocols and algorithms will remain the same.

Potential Reporting for C. Difficile EIA

C. Difficile EIA Interpretation	GDH Result	C. difficile Toxin Antigen Result
Positive	GDH positive	Toxin positive
Negative	GDH negative	Toxin negative
Indeterminate	GDH positive	Toxin negative
Invalid	GDH negative	Toxin positive

Test Build Information:

New Orderable	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Order LOINC	CPT Code(s)
C. Difficile EIA	LAB17910	LAB17910	FAH6311	34468-9	87324, 87449
Result Component(s)	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Result LOINC	Notes
C. Difficile EIA Interpretation	12301021474	12301021474	FAH6314	34468-9	
Specimen Requirements					
Container	Specimen	Temperature	Collect/Submit Vol	Min Vol	Stability
Sterile Container	Liquid Stool	Refrigerated	5 mL	1 mL	3 days*
Collection Instructions:					
Collect liquid stool (sample must take the shape of the container) in a sterile container without preservatives; formed stool is NOT acceptable and will not be tested.					
*Specimens are stable for 72 hours, but ideal specimens are received in the lab within 24 hours of collection.					

Orderable to be Discontinued	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Order LOINC	CPT Code(s)
C. Difficile, PCR	LAB3021	CDIFBD	FAH5905	74822-8	87493

For questions regarding these changes, please contact the Director of Microbiology, Dr. Christina Wojewoda @christina.wojewoda@uvmhealth.org.