

To: Medical Staff, House Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

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Date: 3/2/2026

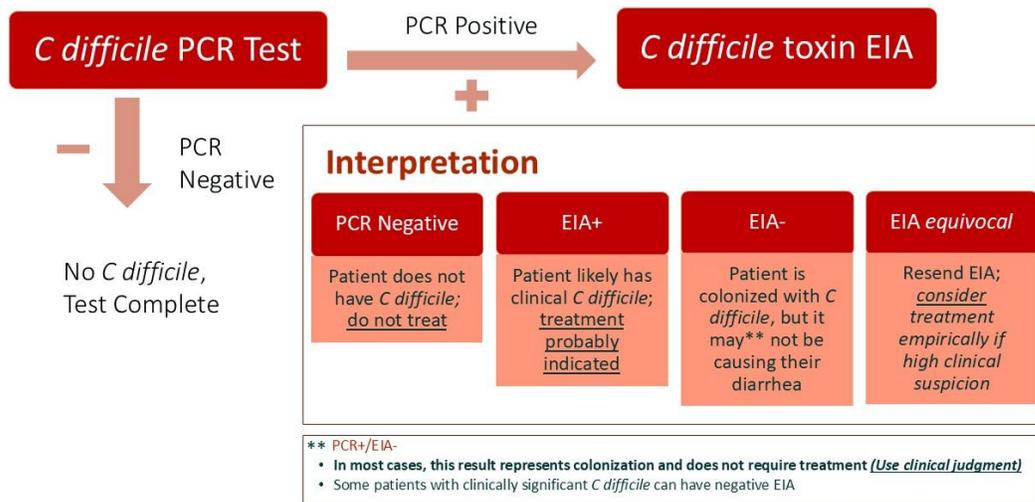
Subject: **Laboratory Diagnosis of *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (CDI) Algorithm Changes.**
This change only applies to UCM sites and not Ingalls sites

Effective Date: 3/3/2026

Laboratory Section: Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories

Effective March 3, 2026, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory is updating its testing algorithm for the diagnosis of *C. difficile* infection (CDI). Routine admission screening for *C. difficile* will be discontinued, except on CCD 10th floor. For symptomatic patients with diarrhea in whom CDI is suspected, a two-step testing approach will be used. Initial testing will be performed using the existing *C. difficile* PCR assay (CDTP). If the PCR result is positive, testing will automatically reflex to the new in-house *C. difficile* Toxin A/B enzyme immunoassay (CDTEIA). The CDTEIA is an automated, two-step enzyme immunoassay that replaces the LabCorp *C. difficile* EIA assay.

The new test algorithm is outlined below.



Note: A standalone *C. difficile* EIA may only be ordered if the in-patient has a positive *C. difficile* PCR test during the current encounter or a prior equivocal EIA test result. EIA testing is limited to one test every 14 days. *C. difficile* testing (including EIA) may not be ordered if the patient has received laxatives within the past 48 hours.

C. difficile EIA Turnaround time: 24 hrs from receipt in the Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories.

Specimen Type / Sample Handling: 5 mL fecal unformed / liquid stool in sterile container.

Questions: With any questions, please contact:

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