



Partner Update

December 2023

Testing Update: Implementation of Infectious Diarrhea Panel and FecalSwab Collection Devices for Detection of Enteric Pathogens

Audience

Healthcare providers requesting testing for enteric pathogens in British Columbia.

Overview

Effective by end December, 2023, stool culture (i.e., routine stool C&S) will be replaced by the Infectious Diarrhea Panel (IDP) test, which is a molecular test capable of simultaneously detecting the majority of bacterial, viral, and parasitic causes of infectious diarrhea from a single sample. This test will be performed any time stool culture, stool ova and parasite exam, or stool virus testing is requested, and requires conversion from current Cary-Blair collection containers to the Copan FecalSwab. The test will be conducted using the Seegene Allplex™ Gastrointestinal Panel Assays, which have been validated for clinical use by Dynacare.

Reason for Change

The IDP detects a broader range of pathogens compared to culture-based methods and is also faster and more sensitive. The IDP is being implemented across all BC laboratories who include detection of enteric pathogens as part of their testing menu. Additional information regarding appropriate testing for suspected cases of community onset infectious diarrhea can be found in the BCGuidelines.ca document 'Infectious Diarrhea – Guideline for Investigation'.

Impact of Change

- Stool culture will no longer be available as an initial test and pathogen isolation will only be attempted for the purposes of further characterization, including antimicrobial susceptibility testing, for the following organisms detected using IDP:
 - All *Shigella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Vibrio* spp., *Salmonella* spp., and *Escherichia coli* O157
- Enzyme immunoassay (EIA) for *Clostridioides difficile* toxin reflex testing will occur if *C. difficile* is detected using IDP
- Stool microscopy tests for protozoa will no longer be routinely conducted and should only be requested if the IDP is negative and the patient has a history of recent travel or immigration from a low- or middle-income country, OR if they are severely immunocompromised.



- Cary-Blair containers currently used will be removed from collection sites and replaced with Copan FecalSwab. Specimens collected in containers other than FecalSwab for IDP testing will be rejected. Updated collection instructions for FecalSwab will be provided to patients.
- Stool specimens for IDP testing must be transported to the laboratory refrigerated and received within two days of collection. If transport of specimen to testing laboratory will be delayed more than two days, specimens should be frozen at -20°C or below and shipped on dry ice.

Action Required

Submitters must follow the instructions for submission outlined below in the "Stool Pathogen Testing Process" guide to ensure that the appropriate specimen is submitted for the desired test. Requisitions must also be completed according to the instruction provided in order to prevent delays.

Stool Pathogen Testing Process

Test Requested	Specimen Type	Requisition Completion Instructions
Detection of bacteria, viruses, and parasites (IDP)	Copan FecalSwab (one swab) 	BC Ministry of Health Standard Out-Patient Laboratory Requisition STOOL SPECIMENS History of bloody stools? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <i>C.difficile</i> testing <input type="checkbox"/> Stool culture <input type="checkbox"/> Stool ova & parasite exam <input type="checkbox"/> Stool ova & parasite (high risk, submit 2 samples) 'Stool culture', OR 'Stool ova & parasite exam', OR 'Stool ova & parasite (high risk, submit 2 samples)' must be indicated.
Stool O&P microscopic examination	Red top SAF containers (two containers) 	BC Ministry of Health Standard Out-Patient Laboratory Requisition STOOL SPECIMENS History of bloody stools? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <i>C.difficile</i> testing <input type="checkbox"/> Stool culture <input type="checkbox"/> Stool ova & parasite exam <input type="checkbox"/> Stool ova & parasite (high risk, submit 2 samples) 'Stool ova & parasite (high risk, submit 2 samples)' must be indicated. OTHER TESTS – Standing Orders include expiry & frequency <input type="checkbox"/> ECG <input type="checkbox"/> FIT (Age 50-74 asymptomatic q2y) Copy to Colon Screening Program <input type="checkbox"/> FIT No copy to Colon Screening Program 'Stool microscopy' must be written on the requisition in the 'OTHER TESTS' field.

Questions about the Change?

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Customer Care at 250.763.4813, or your Dynacare Account Manager.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lee Goneau, PhD, FCCM
Scientific Director of Microbiology

References

1. Infectious Diarrhea – Guideline for Investigation
([https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/bc-guidelines/infectious-diarrhea-guideline-for-investigation#:~:text=The%20Infectious%20Diarrhea%20Panel%20\(IDP\)%20should%20be%20requested%20if%20diarrhea,only%20once%20per%20diarrheal%20episode.](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/bc-guidelines/infectious-diarrhea-guideline-for-investigation#:~:text=The%20Infectious%20Diarrhea%20Panel%20(IDP)%20should%20be%20requested%20if%20diarrhea,only%20once%20per%20diarrheal%20episode.))

