

DATE:	2022 January 19
TO:	Peace Region Physicians, Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	A.Brent Mendez, MD, Regional Site Chief, Grande Prairie, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Temporary Change to GPRH C.difficile Antigen Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Due to unanticipated supply chain issues, effective January 20, 2022, samples collected for C.difficile Antigen testing will be sent to the DynaLife Medical Labs in Edmonton for testing until further supplies are received. On site testing will resume immediately upon receipt of supplies.
 - DynaLife Medical Laboratories uses a two step algorithm for the detection C.difficile using PCR and toxin antigen detection. For details regarding DynaLIFE testing please see the Bulletin from Oct 22, 2018, C. difficile testing and results, [found here](#).
 - Sample requirements remain unchanged: please have the patient collect an **unpreserved** stool sample. Specimens collected in Enteric Transport Media or any type of preservative are not suitable for testing.
 - Turnaround times for reporting results will increase due to transportation.

How this will impact you

- Results delivery will follow the same process as for other referred out testing to Dynalife. Results will be available in Connect Care and Netcare.

Action Required

- No change in ordering.

Questions/Concerns

- A. Brent Mendez, MD, Regional Lab Medicine Site Chief, Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, Grande Prairie, Alberta, brent.mendez@aplabs.ca.

Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, APL Chair Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Alberta.
- Dr. Tatiana Dragan, Medical Microbiologists, Dynalife Medical Labs.