

Date: April 4, 2013

To: North, Central and South Zones
Physicians, Nursing Managers, Clinical Nurse Educators, Infection Prevention and Control, Medical Officers of Health, and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Clostridium difficile Screening Method Standardization

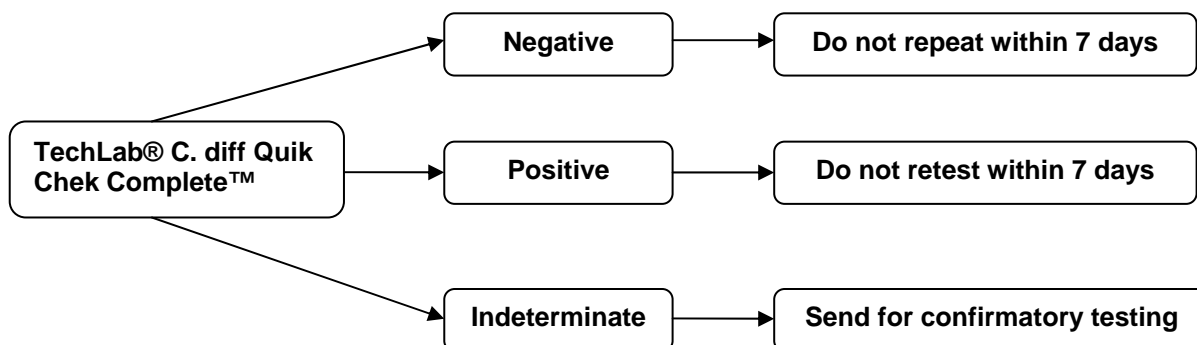
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Key Messages:

Effective April 10, 2013, a new screening test for Clostridium difficile (TechLab® C. diff Quik Chek Complete™) will be implemented in the sites listed below. This test is already being performed at some other sites in these zones.

- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
- Red Deer Regional Hospital
- Queen Elizabeth II Hospital – Grande Prairie
- Northern Lights Regional Health Centre – Fort McMurray

Grossly soft or liquid stool samples will first be tested with the TechLab® C. diff Quik Chek Complete™ and the following algorithm will be applied:

**Why this is important:**

Implementation of TechLab® C. diff Quik Chek Complete™ will:

- Standardize C. difficile testing in the province
- Reduce unnecessary patient isolation
- Decrease length of stay
- Assist with appropriate antibiotic usage
- Improve patient outcomes by providing optimal treatments earlier

Action Required:

Note changes such as:

- Formed stools submitted for testing will be rejected.
- Samples from children <12 months will be rejected, *C. difficile* is found as normal flora in 60-70% of children <12 months years of age.
- Repeat *C. difficile* testing on previous negative or positive sample within 7 days will only be performed if approved by the Microbiologist / Pathologist.
- Indeterminate result samples will be sent for confirmatory testing.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Robert Rennie at 780-407-8806 or 780-964-6116

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Mao-Cheng Lee, Co-associate Medical Director, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}*

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, AHS Laboratory Services