

Date: April 09, 2013

To: Edmonton Zone
Physicians, Nursing Managers, Clinical Nurse Educators, Infection Prevention and Control, Medical Officers of Health, and Laboratory Directors and Managers

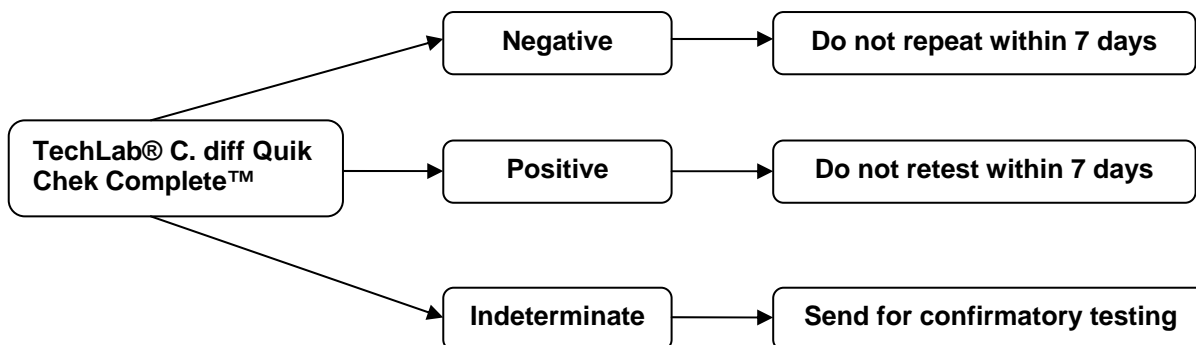
From: AHS Laboratory Services and DynaLIFE_{Dx} Diagnostic Laboratory

Re: Clostridium difficile Screening Method Standardization

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective April 11, 2013, a new screening test for Clostridium difficile (TechLab® C. diff Quik Chek Complete™) will be implemented at DynaLIFE_{Dx}.
- 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:



Note: University of Alberta Hospital C. difficile samples tested at Provincial Laboratory for Public Health - Edmonton will transition to the new kit methodology later this month.

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:

- Specimens should be kept refrigerated whenever possible.
- 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. If testing is required, please consult with the Microbiologist-on-Call.
- Repeat *C. difficile* testing on previous negative or positive sample within 7 days will only be performed if approved by the Microbiologist-on-Call.
- Indeterminate result samples will be sent for confirmatory testing.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Bob Verity, *DynaLIFE_{DX}* Microbiology Director, at: 780-451-3702 ext. 8157 or the *DynaLIFE_{DX}* Microbiologist-on-Call at: 780-451-3702.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, *DynaLIFE_{DX}*

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