

Date: 30 July, 2012

To: North Zone – former Peace Country Health sites: Physicians, Nursing Units, Laboratories

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Clostridium difficile Toxin Detection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective 31 July, 2012, standardized protocols for testing stool samples for Clostridium difficile Toxin will be implemented in North Zone – former Peace Country Health sites. The following two changes will improve the quality of testing, patient results and support standardization of testing and reporting across the province.

- Testing is only performed on loose or watery stool specimens. The Microbiology lab will reject any formed stools sent for testing.
- Repeat testing of both positive and negative toxin assays will not be performed within a 7 day period.

Why this is important:

Testing for C. difficile should be performed on patients with clinically-significant diarrhea, defined as 3 or more loose stools per day for at least 1 to 2 days.

Action Required:

Testing on formed stools or repeated testing within a 7 day period will only be completed after verbal communication of the healthcare provider with the consulting Microbiologist.

For additional questions contact:

Dr. R. Rennie, Microbiologist at 780-964-6116 or
Lee-Ann Nessman, Microbiology Tech III, QEII Hospital at 780-538-7427

This Laboratory Bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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