

Date: April 12, 2013

To: Edmonton Zone - University of Alberta Hospital and Cross Cancer Institute
Physicians, Nursing Managers, Clinical Nurse Educators, Infection Prevention and Control, Medical Officers of Health, and Laboratory Directors and Managers

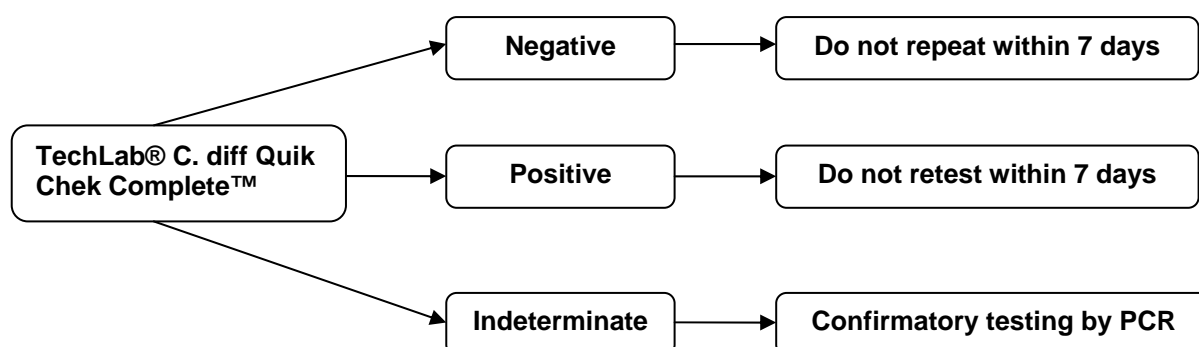
From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: *Clostridium difficile* Toxin Screening Method Standardization

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Key Message:

- Effective April 17, 2013, a new screening test for *Clostridium difficile* (TechLab® C. diff Quik Chek Complete™) will be implemented at the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab).
- This assay offers improved sensitivity over the previously used enzyme immunoassay.
- 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
- Contribute to improved patient care including
 - Reduction of 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 and **transported to the laboratory as soon as possible.**
- Repeat *C. difficile* testing on previous negative or positive sample **within 7 days will only be performed if approved by the Microbiologist-on-Call.**

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- The Microbiologist-on Call via UAH locating at 780-407-8822

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)