

Meriter Provider Email

To: UnityPoint Health – Meriter Hospital, Clinics, and Meriter Community Connect Partners

CC:

From: Dr. Joseph McBride, Infection Prevention

RE: Cyclospora Testing Guidance & Reimbursement Information

Attachments: NA

Following a recent CDC advisory regarding increasing *Cyclospora* cases in multiple states, we're sharing guidance on laboratory testing available within UnityPoint Health and related reimbursement considerations. At this time, Meriter Laboratories has not observed any recent positive *Cyclospora* results.

Cyclosporiasis is a gastrointestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cyclospora*, spread through contaminated food or water. *Cyclospora* is not usually spread directly from person to person. The most common symptoms include frequent, watery diarrhea, along with loss of appetite, weight loss, bloating, nausea and fatigue. Consider Cyclosporiasis in patients presenting with prolonged or relapsing watery diarrhea, even without a history of international travel.

What to know about testing:

- **Recommended Laboratory Testing:** Expanded Stool Panel (Epic EAP LAB5043) is the molecular stool filmarray test offered within UPH that aligns with the CDC guidance for *Cyclospora* testing. Please consider Cyclosporiasis in patients who present with prolonged or relapsing watery diarrhea, even without international travel history.

What to know about payor reimbursement:

- *Cyclospora* testing may be reimbursable in the outreach/outpatient setting in limited circumstances (with appropriate diagnosis code) for many payors. [LMC Article with policy information and list of payable dx codes](#)
 - [Wellmark Policy](#)
 - [UHC Policy](#): prior authorization is required in the outpatient setting.
- Some commercial payors will require patients to have diarrhea for >7 days and be presenting another symptom along with diarrhea, like fever, bloody stools, abdominal cramping/pain or signs of sepsis.

For questions on laboratory testing, please contact [Amy Job](#), Executive Director, Laboratory Services. For questions regarding payor coverage, please refer to the policy resources linked above or contact [Amanda Vaske](#), Director, Revenue Cycle – Lab.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health advisory and for helping ensure timely diagnosis and treatment of affected patients.