

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER LABORATORIES**TEST ANNOUNCEMENT****Clostridium difficile by EIA (Reflex from PCR), Stool****10/03/2025**

Starting October 22, 2025, Clostridium difficile testing will transition to a two-step algorithm. The first test will be the C diff PCR. If positive, an Enzyme Immuno Assay (EIA) test for the presence of toxin will automatically reflex. The EIA test will only be orderable as a reflex test. Negative PCR samples will have no further testing. There are no changes for the collection container, but the stool must be received in the laboratory within 2 hours of collection.

This new two-step process is intended to distinguish between active disease and colonization, but the clinical presentation must always be evaluated as Clostridium difficile toxin can be unstable and degrade quickly in some cases. Molecular and EIA results will report on the same Accession and the EIA will include the following comments:

- Toxin Detected-A positive PCR results combined with a positive toxin EIA in a patient with appropriate clinical symptoms, is a strong indication of C difficile associated disease.
- Toxin Not Detected-A positive molecular test for C difficile, with a negative toxin EIA, may indicate colonization or toxin levels below the detectable limit of the assay. Clinical correlation is necessary to determine the significance of these results.

	Current Test	Reflex Test
Test Name	Clostridium difficile by PCR, Stool	Clostridium difficile by EIA, Stool
Epic EAP	LAB4412	Reflex testing only
SQ Code	SCDMOL	SCDEI

Clostridium difficile by PCR and Clostridium difficile by EIA, Stool**SQ Order Code:** SCDMOL, SCDEI**Performing Laboratory:** Meriter**Methodology:** Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Enzyme Immuno Assay**Specimen Requirements:** Stool- sterile container, no preservative**Specimen Handling and Transport:** 2-8°C within 72 hours of collection, optimal testing time within 24 hours.

Ambient: <2 hours from collection

Turnaround Time: 24 hours**CPT Code:** 87324

If you have any questions, please call the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Laboratories Client Services Department at 608-417-6529 or 1-800-236-0465.