

---

**Reporting Title:** C. difficile Culture**Performing Location:** Rochester**Ordering Guidance:**

If susceptibilities are also desired, order CDIFS / Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile Culture with Antimicrobial Susceptibilities, Varies

This is not the preferred diagnostic test for Clostridioides difficile. For routine diagnostic testing, order CDPCR / Clostridioides difficile Toxin, PCR, Feces.

**Additional Testing Requirements:**

If susceptibility testing is needed; also order MMLSA / Antimicrobial Susceptibility, Anaerobic Bacteria, MIC, Varies. Susceptibility testing, when ordered, would routinely include metronidazole and vancomycin. If susceptibilities are not appropriate and will not be performed, MMLSA will be canceled.

**Shipping Instructions:**

For shipping information see Infectious Specimen Shipping Guidelines

**Necessary Information:**

Specimen source is required.

**Specimen Requirements:**

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

**Patient Preparation:** Patient should not use antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication, zinc oxide paste, Vagisil cream or oily laxatives prior to specimen collection.

**Preferred:**

Specimen Type: Preserved feces

Supplies: Culture and Sensitivity Stool Transport Vial (T058)

Container/Tube: Commercially available transport system specific for recovery of enteric pathogens from fecal specimens (15 mL of non-nutritive transport medium containing phenol red as a pH indicator, either Cary-Blair or Para-Pak C and S)

Specimen Volume: Representative portion of feces; 5 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Collect 1 gram or 5 mL fresh fecal specimen and submit in container with transport medium.

2. Place feces in preservative within 2 hours of collection.

**Additional Information:** Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for Clostridioides difficile is generally not clinically indicated.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred) 96 hours/Refrigerated 96 hours/Frozen 7 days

**Acceptable:**

Specimen Type: Unpreserved feces

Supplies:

-Stool container, Small (Random), 4 oz (T288)

-Stool Collection Kit, Random (T635)

Container/Tube: Stool container

Specimen Volume: Representative portion of feces

Collection Instructions: Collect fresh feces and submit representative sample in stool container.

Additional Information: Only diarrheal (ie, unformed) feces should be tested. Testing formed feces for Clostridioides difficile is generally not clinically indicated.

Specimen Stability Information: Ambient (preferred) 72 hours/Frozen 7 days

Specimen Type: Fresh tissue or biopsy

Sources: Colon

Supplies: Anaerobe Transport Tube (T588)

Specimen Volume: Entire collection, 1 to 2 cm(3)

Collection Instructions: Aseptically collect 1 to 2 cm(3) piece of tissue whenever possible. In general, a larger piece of tissue is preferred. Submit in an anaerobic transport tube.

Specimen Stability Information: Ambient 72 hours

### Specimen Minimum Volume:

Stool: 1 g or 5 mL

Tissue: 5 mm(3)

### Forms:

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Gastroenterology and Hepatology Test Request (T728) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Varies		

### Ask at Order Entry (AOE) Questions:

Test ID	Question ID	Description	Type	Reportable
CDIF	Q00M0077	Specimen Source	Plain Text	No

**Result Codes:**

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
CDIF	C. difficile Culture	Alphanumeric		562-9

LOINC and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

**Supplemental Report:**

No

**CPT Code Information:**

87081-C. difficile Culture  
87076-Anaerobe Ident (if appropriate)  
87076-Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe (if appropriate)  
87153-Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing (if appropriate)

**Reflex Tests:**

Test ID	Reporting Name	CPT Units	CPT Code	Always Performed	Orderable Separately
ANAID	Anaerobe Ident			No	No (Bill Only)
RMALA	Id MALDI-TOF Mass Spec Anaerobe			No	No (Bill Only)
ISAN	Anaerobe Ident by Sequencing			No	No (Bill Only)

**Reference Values:**

No growth of Clostridioides difficile.