

Clostridium Difficile (C-Diff) Ordering for Diagnosis

Clostridium difficile associated disease (CDAD) continues to be a significant problem within the community and healthcare institutions. A systematic and evidence-based approach to diagnosis of CDAD can help minimize unnecessary testing and still provide the highest yield in diagnosis. To implement an appropriate approach to laboratory diagnosis of CDAD, the Infectious Diseases Division of the Clinical Laboratories of Banner Health has initiated a monitoring and control system for orders for *C. difficile* Toxin testing. The system includes a switch to PCR (or other target amplification testing), incorporates Millennium Discern Rules approved by the Care Management Team and conforms to Infection Prevention Policies. They reflect current standard of care and assure appropriate test utilization. **NOTE:** PCR testing may be performed only on diarrheal stool. Any formed samples received by the laboratory will be rejected for testing.

POSITIVE TEST and subsequent testing

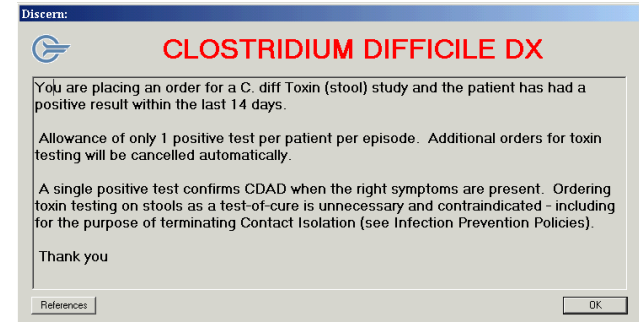
Allowance of only 1 positive PCR test per patient per episode (within 14 days). Subsequent requests for *C. difficile* toxin testing during this time frame will be cancelled automatically.

A single positive test confirms ***Clostridium difficile* associated disease** (CDAD) when symptoms are present. Ordering testing on stools as a test-of-cure is unnecessary and contraindicated – including for the purpose of terminating Contact Isolation (see Infection Prevention Policies).

Additional information related to this alert may be found by clicking on the “Reference” button on the alert.

PHYSICIAN

Discern:



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE DX

You are placing an order for a C. diff Toxin (stool) study and the patient has had a positive result within the last 14 days.

Allowance of only 1 positive test per patient per episode. Additional orders for toxin testing will be cancelled automatically.

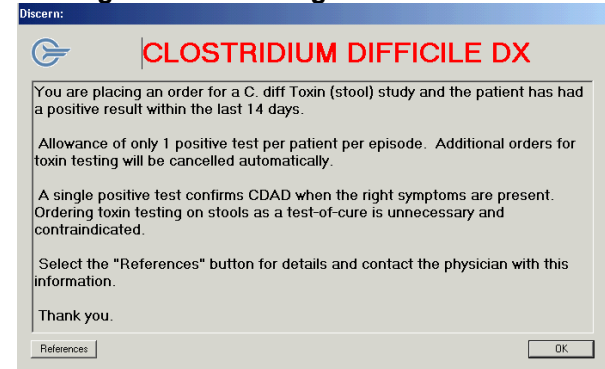
A single positive test confirms CDAD when the right symptoms are present. Ordering toxin testing on stools as a test-of-cure is unnecessary and contraindicated - including for the purpose of terminating Contact Isolation (see Infection Prevention Policies).

Thank you

References OK

Nursing or HUS ordering

Discern:



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE DX

You are placing an order for a C. diff Toxin (stool) study and the patient has had a positive result within the last 14 days.

Allowance of only 1 positive test per patient per episode. Additional orders for toxin testing will be cancelled automatically.

A single positive test confirms CDAD when the right symptoms are present. Ordering toxin testing on stools as a test-of-cure is unnecessary and contraindicated.

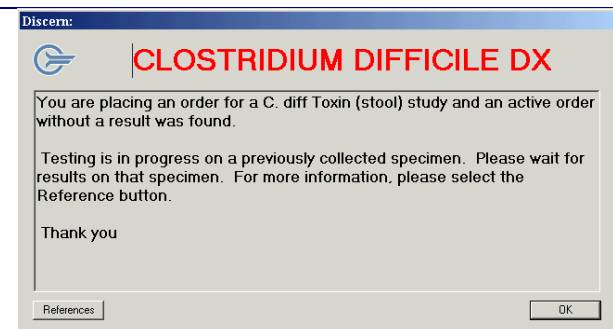
Select the "References" button for details and contact the physician with this information.

Thank you.

References OK

When an order has been placed but result has not been posted yet on an already active order.

Discern:



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE DX

You are placing an order for a C. diff Toxin (stool) study and an active order without a result was found.

Testing is in progress on a previously collected specimen. Please wait for results on that specimen. For more information, please select the Reference button.

Thank you

References OK

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NEGATIVE TEST and subsequent testing


If one test by PCR (or other target amplification method) has been ordered on one encounter and results are negative, subsequent testing will not be allowed for 7 days from the most recent result.

Due to sensitivity of these methods, no further testing is required. All requests for more than 1 test will be cancelled automatically until 7 days has passed from the most recent result.

Additional information related to this alert may be found by clicking on the "Reference" button on the alert.

PHYSICIAN Order Entry

Discern:



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE DX

You are placing an order for a C. diff Toxin (stool) study and the patient has had a negative result within the last 7 days.


Due to the high sensitivity of the PCR or other target amplification methods, allowance of only 1 negative test per patient per episode. Additional orders for toxin testing will be cancelled automatically within this time frame.

. Thank you.

References OK

Nursing or HUS ordering

Discern:



CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE DX

You are placing an order for a C. diff Toxin (stool) study and the patient has had a negative result within the last 7 days.

Due to the high sensitivity of the PCR or other target amplification methods, allowance of only 1 negative test per patient per episode. Additional orders for toxin testing will be cancelled automatically within this time frame.

Select the "References" button for details and contact the physician with this information.


Thank you.

References OK

Other information: if the laboratory has cancelled a formed stool specimen, the Cancel Reason will show as:

Spec unacceptable for testing

And in PowerChart, this additional information will be seen as well:

aboratory		
 C difficile by PCR Assay-Discern	Canceled	Stool, 10/12/11 13:35:00 MDT, UC, No Credit, RT, RT, 10/12/11 13:35:00 MDT, 94 Central Proc Formed consistency of the stool sample not acceptable for C. diff testing.