



<i>Clostridium difficile</i> - Real Time PCR Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	No. <i>Clostridium difficile</i> is NOT a notifiable condition
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	No, submission is not required. Submission of samples for testing is encouraged. Note that lab testing fee is waived for MeCDC outbreak investigations.
Required Information:	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION Requisition form: PDF
Specimen Requirements:	The only acceptable specimens are raw stool or stool in Cary-Blair media, although raw stool is preferable. Minimum sample size is 1 ml of liquid stool or 1 gram (pea-size) of formed stool.
Collection Instructions:	Collect in a dry, clean and leak proof container. Specimens should be refrigerated upon collection and shipped cold. Frozen specimens are acceptable if long term storage is necessary prior to testing. Stool specimens contained in Cary-Blair transport media are also acceptable for testing.
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Samples in Cary-Blair should arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Raw stool samples must be transported to lab within 4 hours.
Turn Around Time:	48 – 72 Hours
Unacceptable Conditions:	Raw specimens not refrigerated or frozen. Incomplete specimen labeling or documentation. Insufficient specimen volume or incorrect specimen type.
Results Include(PCR)	"C. difficile DNA detected" or "C. difficile DNA not detected"
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	\$127.00 Note: Fee waived if testing is part of an outbreak investigation by MeCDC
Applicable CPT Codes:	CPT: 83891 (nucleic acid extraction) 83900 (amplification) 83901 (amplification)
<i>For Epidemiological Investigations</i>	Culture and PFGE are available for outbreak investigations or per agreement with a health care facility and MeCDC Infectious Disease Division
Additional Information:	For C. difficile specific questions contact Maine HETL Bacteriology Section at 207-287-1704