Molecular Testing for Common Bacterial Stool Pathogens to Replace Conventional Stool Culture in 2016

Providence Health & Services Oregon Laboratories is pleased to announce that our conventional stool culture will be replaced with a molecular nucleic acid amplification test starting on January 4, 2016. The test, called Stool Pathogen Panel, NAAT (LAB24176) will provide rapid diagnosis of the following bacterial stool pathogens:

- *Salmonella* spp.
- *Shigella* spp./Entero-Toxicgenic *E. coli* (ETEC)
- Sxt1/stx2 (Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*)
- *Campylobacter jejuni* and *Campylobacter coli*

**Rationale:** The new Stool Pathogen Panel NAAT detects the exact same pathogens as our current stool culture, just using a different technology. It is, however, up to 50% more sensitive than culture\(^1\). It will also significantly reduce the time to result from several days to \(\leq 24\) hours\(^2\). Specimen collection and transportation will not change. The test will be performed at the Regional Microbiology Laboratory only. The cost of the molecular Stool Pathogen Panel NAAT is comparable to that of the current stool culture.

**Test Name:** Stool Pathogen Panel NAAT  
**Epic Test Code:** LAB24176  
**Cerner Lab Test Code:** 48551  
**Collect:** Fresh diarrheal, liquid or soft stool in Cary-Blair transport medium  
**Stability (from collection):** Ambient: 4 hours, Refrigerated: 3 days, Frozen: 30 days  
**Unacceptable Conditions:** Fresh stool, leaking containers  
**Performed:** Sunday - Saturday  
**Reported:** Within 24 h  
**Methodology:** Multiplex Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)  
**CPT Code:** 87506  
**Note:** Please update your preference list!

**References:**


For more information, please contact Providence Lab Services at (503) 215-6660, the Regional Microbiology Laboratory at (503) 893-7786, or Dr. Margret Oethinger at (503) 893-7718.