

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

25-14

**To:** All clinical staff and medical providers, Infection Prevention and Control  
**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director Microbiology  
 Jacob Pyper, Health Services Director

**Re:** Update to the Meditech Test Dictionary: Infectious Diarrhea Testing

Effective April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the Test Dictionary in Meditech will be updated to clarify ordering for infectious diarrhea.

### Important Information

- To prioritize the right test for each patient, three diagnostic testing modalities (orders) are available for the investigation of infectious diarrhea.

#### Changes:

- Some order names have been updated to better reflect the testing performed:

Previous Test Name	New Test Name	Tests included	Eligible Patients
Stool bacterial/parasite/virus  Also know as “Infectious Diarrhea PCR Panel”	Stool Bacteria/Cdif/Viral/Para	<b>C. difficile</b> <b>GI bacteria</b> ( <i>Campylobacter spp</i> , <i>Salmonella spp</i> , <i>Shigella spp</i> , Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> including O157, <i>Vibrio spp</i> .) <b>GI viruses</b> (Norovirus, Rotavirus, Astrovirus, Sapovirus) <b>GI parasites</b> ( <i>Cyclospora</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> , <i>Giardia</i> )	Outpatients and patients admitted to a healthcare facility <b>≤3 days</b>
Virus GI - Inpatient/Outbreak	Stool Norovirus/other GI virus	<b>GI viruses</b> (Norovirus, Rotavirus, Astrovirus, Sapovirus)	Any patient with suspected viral gastroenteritis (outbreak or non-outbreak related)
Stool C difficile Toxin	N/A (no change)	<b>C. difficile</b>	Any patient with suspected <i>C. difficile</i> infection

- Prompts describing the appropriate collection container have been added
- Prompts linking users to the NEW infectious diarrhea ‘Collection and Ordering Job aid’ have been added
- Additional test name aliases have been added to improve searchability

#### Background Notes:

- As shown in the table above, the Infectious Diarrhea PCR Panel broadly encompasses testing for bacteria (including *C. difficile*), parasites and viruses.
- Such broad testing is not generally performed when a patient has been admitted to a healthcare facility >3 days since new onset of bacterial or parasitic infections are unlikely.
- For patients admitted >3 days, specific testing for nosocomial infections (*C. difficile* or GI viruses) is available instead

### Action Required

- Review the [IH Collection and Ordering Job Aid for Infectious Diarrhea Specimens poster](http://www.interiorhealth.ca), located at [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) > Information For > Medical Staff > Clinical Tools & Resources > Laboratory Services Guide > Microbiology > Ordering guidance for health-care providers, to learn new test names and collection requirements
- Review prompt(s) when placing orders to ensure specimen is collected with the appropriate container