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Des Moines Laboratory

Date: February 2st, 2024

Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR (STOOLPCR):

Beginning February 21, 2024, MercyOne will be discontinuing stool cultures/associated antigen tests and moving solely to the Gastrointestinal (GI) Panel by PCR. The GI Panel by PCR is a multiplexed nucleic acid test for the simultaneous qualitative detection and identification of nucleic acids from multiple bacteria, viruses, and parasites directly from stool samples obtained from individuals with signs and/or symptoms of gastrointestinal infection. The GI Panel is able to provide results quickly while testing for more targets than current practices.

GI Panel Identification: Campylobacter, Clostridium difficile toxin A/B, Plesiomonas shigelloides, Salmonella, Vibrio (including specific identification of Vibrio cholera, Yersinia enterocolitica, Enteroaggregative Escherichia coli, Enteropathogenic Escherichia coli, Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli, Shiga-like toxin-producing Escherichia coli, Shigella/Enteroinvasive Escherichia coli, Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora cayetanensis, Entamoeba histolytica, Giardia lamblia, Adenovirus F 40/41, Astrovirus, Norovirus GI/GII, Rotavirus A, and Sapovirus.

Aeromonas Cultures can be ordered separately. To do so, please order a misc test with the test code AERMC.

Discontinued Tests:

Stool culture with EC Toxin and Campy Ag (C STOOL)
Culture Yersinia (C YERS)

Testing Supplies: Available on the supply portal.

- Cary Blair Transport Medium: Part Number **543016**
- Sterile Specimen Cup: Part Number **395346**.

The **CPT code** for the GI Panel by PCR is 87507.

Collection Instructions: Please include a specimen in a sterile container and a C & S Orange Top (Cary Blair container). Add stool specimen until level with preservative reaches the red line. Do not overfill container past the red line. It is stable in room temp and refrigerated for 4 days.

CMS Guidelines to proper diagnosis codes:
https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=56596&ver=29

Thank you for choosing MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory.

(GI Continued) Note From the Vendor on Gastrointestinal Panel by PCR:
01/26/2024 - A potential signal of increased false positive Norovirus results in the GI Panel by PCR has been identified. A false positive may not require specific therapy, but confirmation testing (NOPCR: Norovirus PCR Stool) is available, if indicated.

The overall risk of false positive Norovirus reported in the GI Panel by PCR may be serious for patients at risk. False Positive results are typically associated with unnecessary treatment and reduced likelihood of identifying the true cause of the patient's disease. The risk is mitigated by a health care provider's evaluation of other clinical diagnostic findings including the context of an evaluation of patient clinical history, travel history, suspicion of infection, clinical presentation, and severity of the disease.

MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory will provide an update when the root cause of this issue is identified and resolved by the test manufacturer.

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Specimen Requirements

MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory performs Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae testing for samples collected from genital sites. Testing requested on non-genital sites will be referred to Mayo Clinical Laboratory.
Collection containers differ depending on specimen source and performing laboratory.

For Specimens Collected From Genital Sites:
Order Test: Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Amplification (**CTNG DNA**); performing location MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory

For Collection of **Vaginal, Endocervix/Cervix for CTNG DNA**

Collect in the Cobas PCR Uni Swab Sample Packet

For Collection of **Urine for CTNG DNA**

Collect in the Cobas PCR Urine Sample Packet

For Specimens Collected From Non-Genital Sites:
Order Test: Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Amplification (**CGRNA**); performing location Mayo Clinical Laboratory

For collection of **Oropharynx/Pharynx/Throat, Rectal/Anal For CGRNA**

Please collect in Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit T584 (Pink shaft swab)

For collection of **Urethra (Males only) For CGRNA.**
Please collect in Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit T583 (Blue shaft swab)

Please visit our test catalog for more information.

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