



A Member of Cayuga Health System

Laboratory Technical Bulletin

Date: 1/5/26

Effective Date: 1/7/26

Title: Test Menu Update – Stool Pathogen Detection

Test: GI Pathogen Panel

Explanation of change:

Taking a step forward in improving the quality of stool pathogen detection, the Arnot Ogden Medical Center Laboratory will now offer molecular gastrointestinal pathogen testing on the Qiagen QIAstat-Dx platform. This change will improve efficiency and diagnostic accuracy, increase sensitivity and specificity, and support antimicrobial stewardship by reducing result reporting from days to hours and supporting more timely treatment decisions.

Specimens submitted to Cayuga Health Laboratories will be tested at Arnot Heath Lab instead of being referred to Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

Samples must be submitted to the laboratory in **Para-Pak C&S** transport medium. Please note that specimens submitted in other types of transport medium will be rejected and require recollection. Only one specimen per symptomatic episode should be submitted. No more than 1 specimen per 7 days will be accepted. Collection supplies are available from the laboratory.

Comprehensive Ova and Parasite testing will continue to be offered for patients **with a travel history** to an area that is endemic for parasites other than Giardia and Cryptosporidium; orders for O&P that do not include documentation of travel will be rejected.

	Old	New
<i>Perform Site</i>	Mayo Clinic Laboratories	AOMC Main Lab
<i>Method</i>	PCR	PCR
<i>Test Code</i>	GI Pathogen Panel, PCR, F (LAB1901)	Bacterial/Viral/Parasite Gastro Panel (LAB13005) Bacterial Gastrointestinal Panel (LAB13004) Bacterial/Viral Gastro Panel (LAB13003)
<i>Specimen</i>	Stool in C&S (Cary-Blair) Media	Stool in Para-Pak C&S (Cary-Blair) Media <i>Stool must be inserted into orange Para-Pak C&S vial within 2 hours of collection.</i>
<i>Turnaround time</i>	1-3 days	0-1 days

Target	Bacterial/Viral/Parasite Gastro Panel (1)	Bacterial Gastrointestinal Panel (2)	Bacterial/Viral Gastro Panel (3)
Adenovirus F40/F41	✓		
Astrovirus	✓		
Norovirus GI/GII	✓		✓
Rotavirus A	✓		
Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (EPEC)	✓		
Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (ETEC)	✓		
Shiga-like toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (includes <i>E. coli</i> O157) (EHEC/STEC)	✓	✓	✓
<i>E. coli</i> O157	✓		
Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EIEC)/ <i>Shigella</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	✓	✓	✓
<i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i>	✓		
<i>Salmonella</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Cyclospora cayentensis</i>	✓		
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.	✓		
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	✓		
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	✓		

Ordering suggestions:

- Community acquired diarrhea ≥ 7 days duration: order panel 2
If the results of panel 2 are negative and symptoms persist, consider ordering panel 1.
- Community acquired diarrhea ≥ 7 days duration and lives in group setting: order panel 3
If the results of panel 3 are negative and symptoms persist, consider ordering panel 1.
- Travel associated diarrhea: order panel 1
If the results of panel 1 are negative and symptoms persist, consider ordering full Ova and Parasite examination and/or *Microsporidia* testing. Please include travel history details in order.
- Diarrhea with warning signs/risk factors for serious disease (fever, bloody diarrhea, dysentery, severe abdominal pain, dehydration, hospitalization or immunocompromised state): order panel 1
- Consider additional testing for *C. difficile* for patients that have experienced ≥ 3 unexplained loose stools within 24 hours in the absence of laxatives and have had recent exposure to antibiotics. *C. difficile* testing should also be considered for any patient with suspected ileus or colonic distention.

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Date 1/7/26

Michelle Walters, Laboratory Administrative Director

Date 1/7/26

Dr. Elizabeth Plocharczyk, Laboratory Medical Director

Date 1/7/26