UnityPoint Health
Des Moines

Laboratory Testing for Infectious Causes of Diarrhea[1]

Community-acquired diarrhea <7 days duration WITHOUT warning signs or risk factors for severe disease[2,3]

Testing not generally indicated

If diarrhea persists and patient is NOT immunocompromised or had recent travel exposure

EPIC LAB3722
SSPNL/Standard Infectious Stool Panel[4]

POSITIVE[9]
No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

NEGATIVE

If diarrhea persists

Hospitalized Patients Admitted <72 hours

Immunocompromised
OR
Travel-related diarrhea

EPIC LAB5043
STLPCR/Expanded Infectious Stool Panel[5]

Consider EPIC LAB3950 STOPS/Ova and Parasite Examination if traveler with >2 weeks of symptoms[6] or if diarrhea persists

NEGATIVE

If diarrhea persists

Consider EPIC LAB5076 MSPCR/ Microsporidia by PCR

POSITIVE[9]
No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

Health care-associated diarrhea (admitted > or equal to 72 hours)
OR
patients with recent antibiotic use

EPIC LAB2162
SCDMOL/Clostridium Difficile PCR

NEGATIVE

If diarrhea persists

Use clinical judgment to guide the need for additional testing

Possible roundworms or tapeworm segments are identified in stool/ undergarments and are available for submission to lab

EPIC LAB247
WORMID/Parasite Identification

NEGATIVE

If intestinal parasites are still suspected, obtain at least 2 more stool specimens, collected on separate days over a 10 day period

POSITIVE
No additional testing required unless clinical picture indicates

Follow Up Testing for Return to Work[7, 8]

EPIC LAB6340
CSHIGP/Shigella Culture on Confirmed Positive Patients[7]

EPIC LAB6413
CECOLP/E. Coli Culture on Confirmed Positive Patients[8]

[1] This algorithm should NOT be used for chronic diarrhea.
[2] Warning signs and risk factors for severe disease include fever, bloody diarrhea, dysentery, severe abdominal pain, dehydration, hospitalization, and immunocompromised state.
[3] During summer, consider ordering EPIC LAB5043/Expanded Infectious Stool Panel on children with diarrhea even if they don't have frankly bloody diarrhea, are not toxic-appearing, & diarrhea present <7 days
[4] Standard Infectious Stool Panel test always reports five (5) targets by default of Clostridium difficile, Campylobacter, Salmonella, Norovirus, and Rotavirus If any additional detected result is obtained of the 22 targets will also be reported.
[5] Expanded Infectious Stool Panel of a total of 22 targets of common bacterial, viral and parasitic causes of diarrhea.
[6] Submit 3 stool collected on separate days for maximum sensitivity.
[7] For food handlers, child care employees, and healthcare providers, two negative stool cultures must be obtained after diarrhea stops before they may return to work or childcare. Child care attendees may return 48 hours after resolution of diarrhea or 24 hours after treatment with antibiotics has started AND 24 hours after diarrhea stops. Iowa Public Health Department Shigella Fact Sheet retrieved from https://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual on 04/19/2022.
[8] For people who handle food, child care workers or attendees, or healthcare workers, treatment should be considered. These people should have two negative stool cultures, taken at least 24 hours apart and at least 48 hours after completing antibiotics, if given, before they return to work or child care.. Iowa Public Health Department E coli pathogenic Fact Sheet retrieved from https://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual on 04/19/2022.
[9] Detection of *Shigella*, or *Campylobacter* by GI Panel will result in automatic culture for sensitivity .

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