NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SERVICE

DATE: July 1, 2010
TO: Housestaff and PCN Physicians, Faculty, and Nursing Personnel
FROM: Christopher R. Polage, M.D.
Director, Microbiology Laboratory
RE: Stool Specimen Acceptability Criteria for the Microbiology Lab

Effective August 1, 2010, the acceptability criteria for the following stool tests will change:

- C. DIFFICILE TOXIN A & B EIA (MICVI00019)
- CULTURE GASTROINTESTINAL, BACCI (MICG000043)
- OVA AND PARASITES, SPECIAL CASE (MICP000024)
- CRYPTOSPORIDIUM/GIARDIA FA (MICPA00006)

_C.difficile toxin A & B EIA_
1. Only patients with ≥3 diarrheal stools for ≥24 hours should be tested.
2. Specimens not conforming to the shape of the collection container will be rejected.
3. The number of tests per patient will be limited to no more than 1 / day and ≤2 / week. Additional specimens will be rejected.
4. Specimens from patients < 1 year old will be rejected without prior approval.
5. Specimens from patients 1-2 years of age will be reported with the following comment: “The clinical significance of a positive result for _C. difficile_ toxin in patients <2 years old is uncertain and commonly represents colonization. Clinical correlation is recommended.”
6. Other rejection criteria including rectal swabs, specimens > 48 hours old, preserved specimens, and specimens from patients with previous positive result ≤7 days remain unchanged.

_Bacterial culture/Stool parasite testing:_
1. All specimens must be submitted in appropriate preservative/transport containers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>CULTURE GASTROINTESTINAL, BACCI (MICG000043)</th>
<th>CRYPTOSPORIDIUM/GIARDIA FA (MICPA00006); OVA AND PARASITES, SPECIAL CASE (MICP000024)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enteric transport media (Cary-Blair)</td>
<td>45044102</td>
<td>57132158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcode</td>
<td>Ambient, 96 hours</td>
<td>Ambient, ≤3 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Fresh specimens or specimens not received in appropriate transport vials will be rejected.
3. For inpatients, specimens collected ≥3 days after admission will be rejected.

Please order supplies now using the calcodes above. These changes are intended to decrease unnecessary testing and reduce the number of specimens rejected due to transport delay improving patient care. Call the Microbiology Laboratory at 734-2544 with any questions.

APPROVED BY: 
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