NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SERVICE

DATE: September 15, 2010

TO: House Staff Physicians, Faculty, Nursing Personnel, Primary Care Network Physicians and Nurses

FROM: Christopher R. Polage, MD
        Director, Microbiology Laboratory

RE: Transport of Stool Specimens for C. difficile toxin, Rotavirus and Viral Culture

Effective October 11, 2010, fresh stool samples (feces) submitted for C. difficile toxin, Rotavirus detection and viral culture must be submitted on ice (2-8°C) or they will be rejected. This is a new requirement that is intended to limit the degradation that occurs prior to testing, improve the sensitivity of C. difficile toxin detection and improve patient care. All other collection and transport instructions for these tests will not change. As a reminder, all stool specimens submitted for C. difficile testing must conform to the shape of the container to be acceptable for testing.

The following tests are affected by this change:

- C DIFFICILE TOXIN A & B EIA [MICVI00019]
- ROTAVIRUS [MICVI00007]
- CULTURE GASTROINTESTINAL, VIRAL [MICG000045]

Please call the Microbiology Laboratory at 734-2544 with any questions.

APPROVED BY: __________________________
Lydia P. Howell, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

cc: Betty Clark, RN
    Dean Blumberg, MD
    Darrell O’Sullivan
    Richard Pollard, MD
    Judie Boehmer
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