



How do I order the *C. difficile* testing?

- Search for the new test by entering “CDIFPR.” This should be the initial test ordered for all patients with suspected *C. difficile*. The test will be displayed as: C DIF PCR/RFLX to CTA

How does the test work?

- The new test has two components:
 - **Step 1:** *C. difficile* Toxin B PCR
 - **Turn around time:** 1-4 hours
 - If this test is negative, the patient does not have CDI. Step 2 is not preformed.
 - If this test is positive, Step 2 testing is conducted
 - **Step 2:** Cell Cytotoxicity Neutralization Assay (CCNA)
 - **Turn around time:** 24-72 hours
 - If this test is negative, the patient does not have CDI
 - If this test is positive, the patient likely has CDI

Testing Tips:

- **Testing should only be ordered for patients with:**
 - Significant diarrhea (\geq 3 watery stools/day) **AND** clinical suspicion of infection
- **Testing should NOT be ordered with:**
 - Formed stools
 - Recent laxative use
- **Step 2, CCNA reflex can take up to 72 hours to result.**
 - The patient should remain on isolation until negative CCNA results
 - If suspicion is relatively low and clinically stable, treatment CAN be deferred until Step 2 results at the clinical discretion of the provider
- **This test should not be ordered in triplicate or as a “test of cure.”** If negative, this test should also not be repeated to rule out *C. difficile* unless several days have passed or the clinical syndrome has changed.

***Clostridioides difficile* test interpretation algorithm:**

Interpret test results and make treatment decisions only after considering patient symptoms

