CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE - Test Code 2017

Turnaround Time: 2 business days | Specimen Type: Stool Kit

Description

Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) testing is essential for identifying infections caused by this bacterium, which can lead to severe gastrointestinal disturbances, including antibiotic-associated diarrhoea and colitis (Czepiel et al., 2019). The test typically involves analysing a stool sample for the presence of C. difficile toxins. This test detects active infections by identifying the toxins produced by the bacteria, which are responsible for the symptoms experienced by patients (Czepiel et al., 2019).

C. difficile infections often arise following the use of antibiotics, which disrupt the normal gut microbiota and allow C. difficile to proliferate (Czepiel et al., 2019). Symptoms can range from mild diarrhoea to life-threatening colitis, characterised by severe abdominal pain and fever (Czepiel et al., 2019). Early diagnosis is critical for effective management, as it allows healthcare providers to initiate appropriate treatment, such as specific antibiotics that target C. difficile, thereby improving patient outcomes.

If a person is experiencing symptoms such as persistent diarrhoea, abdominal cramping, or fever, it is essential for them to consult their healthcare provider. Testing for C. difficile can help determine if this infection is the cause of the symptoms, allowing for timely and effective treatment.

Whats included?

- Clostridium difficile Toxin A & Toxin B

Conditions and Symptoms

- Watery diarrhoea
- Abdominal cramping
- Fever
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Dehydration
- Fatigue or lack of energy

Complementary Testing

- CDSA Level 1 (Test code 2003)
- Faecal DNA Multiplex PCR (Test code 2002)

Accreditations Include:

- NATA ISO 15189 – Requirements for Quality and Competence in Medical Laboratories*
- CLIA – Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments*