News

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

GI PCR Panel Plus (Stool)—LAB8905

Starting MONDAY JUNE 18, 2018, GI PCR tests ordered on inpatients more than 3 days following hospitalization will be cancelled unless prior approval is obtained from the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.

These restrictions are based on review of UCH GI PCR results over a one-year time period. A total of 844 GI PCR tests were performed on inpatients more than 3 days after they had been admitted to the hospital. Of these tests, only 26 (3.1%) suggested the possibility of a current infection with a pathogen other than *Clostridium difficile* or *Norovirus*. Similar results were observed for immunocompromised patients. The GI PCR Panel is best utilized in the care of patients with community-onset diarrhea where we observed a 36% positivity rate. The preferred tests to order for suspected hospital-onset infectious diarrhea are the *C. difficile* toxin PCR (LAB3716) or the *Norovirus* PCR (LAB3331).

To obtain approval for the GI PCR assay please contact the Molecular Diagnostics Department (720-848-6892) at the time of ordering.

Issued: 06/15/2018