

Laboratory *News*

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CHANGES IN MCHS DIAGNOSTIC MICROBIOLOGY SERVICES

*Thomas Novicki, PhD, D(ABMM), Clinical Microbiologist,
Marshfield Labs*

Medical microbiology is a complex discipline that is best performed by specialist microbiologists using advanced technologies. In the Marshfield Clinic Health System, such resources are now only available at the Marshfield campus microbiology laboratory. While limited diagnostic microbiology services are also performed at several regional laboratories throughout our system, they do not have the specialist microbiologists nor the same advanced technologies found on the Marshfield campus.

In order to provide uniformly high quality microbiology services and best utilize resources across our system, we have initiated a program to centralize microbiology services at the Marshfield campus. Beginning January 2, 2019, MMC-Eau Claire, MMC-Ladysmith, MMC-Rice Lake, and Flambeau Hospital will transfer the microbiology culture work (inpatient and outpatient) that they now perform in-house to the Marshfield campus microbiology laboratory. "In-house" work includes aerobic culture and susceptibility, rapid Strep A confirmatory culture, urine culture, and Group B Strep prenatal screen culture. As in the past, all other culture types will be handled by MMC-Marshfield only.

Note that the following microbiology-related services will continue to be performed at the local laboratories:

- blood culture incubation and Gram stain of positive cultures
- Gram stain of other sample types
- fungal wet preps
- vaginal wet preps



Additionally, pinworm preps and *Helicobacter pylori* feces antigen testing will be consolidated to the Marshfield campus microbiology laboratory.

Maintaining the current turnaround time (TAT) for the cultures affected by this transition has been at the forefront of our planning. In order to maintain our current TAT for those cultures now performed at the above sites, each local site will inoculate samples for these culture types and positive blood cultures to culture media. The media will then be incubated prior to being transported by laboratory courier to the Marshfield campus.

An internal analysis was performed to compare this approach with the current standard of blood culture workup in the local laboratories. When performed at the Marshfield campus microbiology laboratory, microbial identifications were available on average 1.4 days sooner, and antimicrobial susceptibility results on average 0.4 days sooner compared to these same cultures being worked up at the local lab. Note that we anticipate a 1-2 month interim period when culture results may be delayed for up to 24 hours.

QUESTIONS

- Please contact your regional laboratory manager, Dr. Thomas Novicki, or Dr. Thomas Fritsche with any questions or concerns.
- Phone number: 1-800-222-5835. 📞

NEW TEST: EXTENDED FECAL PATHOGEN PANEL, PCR, (GIP)

*Thomas Novicki, PhD, D(ABMM), Clinical Microbiologist,
Mary Stemper, MS, Microbiology Technical Director, Marshfield Labs*

The test, **Extended Fecal Pathogen Panel, PCR, (GIP)** (test code: **GIPSO**), is a syndromic gastrointestinal pathogen nucleic acid test that is now available to all physicians and allied providers. This test is a useful adjunct when standard GI pathogens have been ruled out by tests performed in-house including **Fecal Bacteria-only Pathogen Panel, NAT (SSCSNAT)** and **Ova and Parasites, (Giardia/Crypt) Routine (OPRCG)**, or when unusual circumstances such as travel history or persistent symptoms suggest a non-routine GI pathogen.

The following pathogens are detected by this panel:

- *Campylobacter species (C. jejuni/C. coli/C. upsaliensis)*
- *Clostridium difficile* toxin A/B
- *Plesiomonas shigelloides*
- *Salmonella species*
- *Vibrio species (V. parahaemolyticus, V. vulnificus, V. cholerae)*
- *Vibrio cholerae*
- *Yersinia species*
- Enteroaggregative *Escherichia coli* (EAEC)
- Enteropathogenic *E coli* (EPEC)
- Enterotoxigenic *E coli* (ETEC)
- *Shiga* toxin

- *E coli* O157
- Shigella/Enteroinvasive E coli (EIEC)
- *Cryptosporidium species*
- *Cyclospora cayetanensis*
- *Entamoeba histolytica*
- *Giardia*
- Adenovirus F 40/41
- Astrovirus
- Norovirus GI/GII
- Rotavirus A
- Sapovirus

Fecal Bacteria-only Pathogen Panel, NAT (SSCSNAT), Ova and Parasites, (Giardia/Crypt) Routine (OPRCG), and individual tests for the pathogens listed above should not be concurrently ordered. This test is performed on feces transported in Para-Pak® C&S or similar Cary-Blair based media. This test will be performed by Mayo Medical Laboratories, where the test is run daily.

QUESTIONS

- Test information is available in: [Marshfield Labs' Test Reference Manual](#).
- Technical and interpretive questions may be directed to Dr. Thomas Novicki or Dr. Thomas Fritsche, Microbiology Lab.
- Phone number: 1-800-222-5835. 📞