March 22, 2018

Mercy Clinical Laboratory will be transitioning *Clostridium difficile* testing to the GeneXpert® platform on March 27, 2018. This move will decrease turnaround time and allow longer stability of unpreserved stool samples including 24 hours at room temperature and 5 days at refrigerator temperature. Samples in Cary Blair transport media will be rejected; the only acceptable specimen type is an unpreserved stool specimen. The ordering process and pricing remain the same.

Please do not place labels with barcodes on the test requisitions. If these labels are on the requisition, the barcode must be blacked out so it is not read by the scanner when scanned into our system. Any extra Atlas labels that are not used to label a specimen should be discarded.

A genital culture cannot be performed from the Cobas® transport tube which is for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea PCR testing. Please collect a separate culturette swab or ESwab for genital cultures. Remember to put the label for CTNG testing on the Cobas® transport tube or PAP vial, and the label for the genital culture on the swab. This will help us process the samples more efficiently.

Thank you for choosing Mercy Clinical Laboratory.