Date: December 20, 2018

Complete Lab Orders

When ordering laboratory testing in your EMR that is interfaced to MCL, please make sure all information in the test order is completed, including “Sent to PSC” if applicable. This will ensure the order is processed efficiently without additional phone calls to your facility.

Ova and Parasite testing

Ova and Parasite Basic test is performed at Mercy Clinical Laboratory. This test includes Giardia and Cryptosporidia antigens. Turnaround time is 1 day.

Ova and Parasite Expanded test includes microscopic examination of concentrated stool specimen and trichrome stain and is sent out to the State Hygienic Lab. This test is only recommended if the patient has residence in or has recently traveled to a developing country, or if the patient has undiagnosed diarrhea and O & P Basic, C difficile toxin, Stool culture, and Rotavirus (in children) are negative. Turnaround time is 3-5 business days. Please consider ordering the OP Basic first as it covers the most common parasites found in Iowa, including Cryptosporida which is not always detectable in the OP Expanded test.

If Cyclospora is suspected, it needs to be ordered as a miscellaneous blood test and comment “Stool for Cyclospora stain to SHL”.

Specimens for ova and parasite testing should be put in the black cap Total Fix Ova and Parasite container within 2 hours of collection.
Urine Culture source

Please make sure the correct specimen source is selected when ordering urine cultures. MCL microbiology staff process cultures differently depending on the source. For example, a suprapubic urine sample is considered a surgical collection and we would not expect to see skin contamination that we might find in a midstream urine sample. Even urine cath samples are handled differently than urine midstream samples. Please help us provide the best results to our patients by choosing the urine source carefully.

Stool Panel PCR

Collection requirements for this test now include the addition of 1 ml of stool specimen in an unpreserved, airtight container as well as the orange cap Cary Blair container. The unpreserved sample is needed for a reflex C difficile toxin test to be run if the C difficile PCR test is positive. Stool samples in preservatives (Cary Blair) are not acceptable for the C difficile toxin test.

Please contact Jill Noble, Specialty Services manager, at 515-247-4038 with any questions.

Thank you for choosing MCL.