

To: Columbia St. Mary's Physicians and Clinicians
From: North Shore Pathology Group
Columbia St. Mary's Laboratory Leadership
Subject: Enteric Pathogens Panel NAAT- new lab orderable
Date: February 28, 2019

Effective 02/28/2019, the Laboratory Microbiology Department is pleased to offer a new molecular assay that can detect and identify common pathogenic enteric bacteria, viruses and toxins rapidly. This assay will be performed on an automated instrument with an anticipated turn-around time of 24 hours. Targets identified include:

- *Campylobacter* Group (composed of *C. coli*, *C. jejuni*, and *C. lari*)
- *Salmonella* species
- *Shigella* species (including *S. dysenteriae*, *S. boydii*, *S. sonnei*, and *S. flexneri*)
- *Vibrio* Group (composed of *V. cholerae* and *V. parahaemolyticus*)
- *Yersinia enterocolitica*
- Norovirus GI/GII
- Rotavirus A
- Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (Shiga Toxin 1 and Shiga Toxin 2)

Acceptable specimens include stool in Cary-Blair medium and stool in a sterile container delivered to the laboratory promptly.

Per our current policy, lab will continue to call all detected bacteria and toxin results along with detected Norovirus results on inpatients.

This assay provides many benefits over the standard stool culture: it decreases turnaround time from days to hours and it increases the sensitivity for detecting fragile enteric pathogens. Rapid and accurate detection of gastrointestinal pathogens will improve patient outcomes by providing faster treatment and it will aid in proper infection control and epidemiologic measures to help curb the spread of disease.

Due to the enhanced sensitivity of this assay, stool culture orders will be cancelled when the Enteric Pathogens Panel NAAT is placed.

Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Enteric Pathogens Panel NAAT, please contact Sarah Cliff or Dr. Martinez-Torres at the numbers listed below:

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