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DATE: February 10, 2016
TO: UCH Medical Staff, Housestaff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics
FROM: Kathleen G. Beavis, MD
RE: Testing for Gastrointestinal Pathogens

Available Date and Pathogens Detected:

Effective February 10, 2016, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will perform the Gastrointestinal (GI) Panel. This panel detects multiple viral, bacterial, and parasitic gastrointestinal pathogens by PCR from a single stool specimen. This test will provide more rapid results and increased sensitivity as compared to current methods and will include targets not detected by current methods.

The targets detected by the GI Panel include:

Campylobacter species, *C. difficile* toxin A/B, *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Salmonella* species, *Vibrio* species, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, Enteroaggregative *E. coli*, Enteropathogenic *E. coli*, Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, *E. coli* O157, *Shigella*/Enteroinvasive *E. coli*, Shiga toxin, *Cryptosporidium* species, *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Giardia*, Adenovirus F 40/41, Astrovirus, Norovirus GI/GII, Rotavirus A, and Sapovirus

Test ordering information:

The GI Panel should be ordered in Epic using the Order code GIP "GI Panel, PCR, Stool".

Specimen requirements:

The only acceptable specimen is stool. Transfer 5 mL of stool to Cary-Blair transport medium (order in Oracle, item number 222215) by adding specimen to the fill line on the container. Transport to the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, tube station 906.

Testing Schedule and turnaround time:

Testing will be performed 7 days/week. Results will be available within 24 hours.

Discontinued assays:

Stool Culture (Order code STC), *Cryptosporidium*/*Giardia* FA (Order code CGFA), Rotavirus Antigen (Order code ROTA), and Adenovirus 40/41 Ag (Order code AD40) are no longer offered due to the improved sensitivity and turnaround time of the PCR Panel.

For questions, please contact Scott Matushek, Chief Medical Technologist, at 795-0055, or Kathleen G. Beavis, MD, Director, at 702-3689.