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Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel by PCR

Legacy Laboratory Services announces the availability of the new BioFire FilmArray GI Pathogen Panel PCR used in the diagnosis of infectious diarrhea (see algorithm). This is a multiplex PCR panel that detects 22 common viruses, bacteria, and parasites. This new panel replaces slower and less sensitive traditional stool culture, Giardia/Cryptosporidium antigen testing, individual viral antigens and PCR tests and some O&P exams at a comparable price.

The 22 targets include:

- Bacteria: *Campylobacter* spp., *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Salmonella* spp., Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and other enteropathogenic *E. coli*'s, *Shigella* spp., *Vibrio* spp. Including *V. cholerae*, and *Yersinia enterocolitica*
- *Clostridium difficile* (toxin A/B)
- Protozoa: *Cryptosporidium*, *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, and *Giardia lamblia*
- Viruses: Adenovirus 40/41, Astrovirus, Norovirus GI/GII, Rotavirus A, and Sapovirus (I, II, IV, and V)

Stool cultures will be performed reflexively when pathogens requiring antimicrobial susceptibility testing or State laboratory referrals are detected. The Comprehensive Parasite Exam will remain available, intended for patients with clinical findings suggestive of parasitic disease not detected by the GI Panel PCR.

Clostridium difficile testing is part of this panel, but it is advised that PCR testing alone cannot distinguish *C. difficile* disease from a carrier state, and therefore correlation with clinical findings is required.

This test is available for all Legacy Laboratory Services clients and Legacy facilities. For inpatients, it is recommended the test only be ordered on hospitalizations of 3 days or less. If *C. difficile* disease is suspected the preferred test is one of the stand-alone *C. difficile* toxin orders.

Results for PCR testing for stool pathogens must be taken into clinical context when making treatment decisions. Since PCR testing is much more sensitive than traditional techniques, it allows for detection of low numbers of pathogens and may be detecting carrier states rather than infections.

Orderable – Full Description	Fecal Gastrointestinal PCR Panel
Orderable – Short Name	FE GI PCR
Collection	Fresh stool placed in Cary Blair transport (Enteric transport vial*)
Stability	4 days RT or refrigerated
Transport	RT or refrigerated
Handling	No special handling
Turn-around Time	24 hours
Cpt code	87507
Outpatient Pricing	\$750.00



*Para-Pak Enteric transport vial available through Legacy.