

## New C. Diff Testing Methodology at MMC

### Background

On Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, Memorial Medical Center went live with new testing methodology for *Clostridioides difficile* (C. Diff). It is a cartridge test called C. Diff Quick Check Complete. This test allows the hospital to test patients for the C. Diff GDH (bacterial DNA), as well as the two toxins that are responsible for active C. Diff disease and spread. **This test will be run automatically by the Lab as a reflex test on all positive C. difficile PCR tests.** There are a few different interpretations for the results of this test, and the test result verbiage varies in PowerChart. There is guidance below to guide frontline staff through these tests results:

### Result Interpretations

#### 1. PCR Negative *\*\*\*Negative\*\*\**

*C. difficile* bacteria not present.

- Patient has a negative C. difficile PCR. The reflex testing is not performed.
- The patient does not need Enteric Isolation, unless there is suspicion or confirmation of another GI bacterial illness that would require such isolation.
- Result in PowerChart will be **BLUE** to signify a negative/normal result.

#### 2. PCR/GDH+ & Toxin Negative *\*\*\*Colonization\*\*\**

*C. difficile* bacteria present.

*C. difficile* toxin is either not detected or below the detection limit of the test.

*This testing is consistent with colonization and patient may not need treatment or Enteric Isolation.*

- Patient has a positive PCR/GDH, but no toxin is detected.
- If this result occurs, staff should perform an assessment of the symptoms. If diarrhea persists, patient still requires Enteric Isolation until the diarrhea ceases, or stools return to a more formed consistency.
- Treatment for C. diff would be at the discretion of the physician.
- Result in PowerChart will be **RED** to signify a positive/abnormal result.
- Contact Infection Prevention for further clinical support in these cases.

#### 3. PCR/GDH + & Toxin + *\*\*\*Active Infection\*\*\**

*C. difficile* bacteria present.

*C. difficile* toxin is detected.

*This testing is consistent with active infection.*

*Patient requires Enteric Isolation*

- Patient has a positive PCR/GDH, and a toxin is detected.
- These results are consistent with an active infection with C. difficile, and the patient requires Enteric Isolation, per normal policy and procedure.
- Result in PowerChart will be **RED** to signify a positive/abnormal result.