

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Clostridium difficile Ribotyping Service

The Manchester Laboratory provides a *Clostridium difficile* ribotyping service for the North West of England as part of the *Clostridium difficile* Ribotyping Network (CDRN).

### General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Collect specimens in appropriate CE marked leak proof containers and transport specimens in sealed plastic bags.



**Specimen type:** Faeces

Culture on a CE marked charcoal transport swab.

### Collection:

Specimen may be passed into a clean, dry, disposable bedpan or similar container and transferred into a CE marked leak proof container. The specimen is unsatisfactory if any residual soap, detergent or disinfectant remains in the pan.

Clinical samples should be collected into a sterile leak-proof container in a sealed plastic bag. Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible. If processing is delayed refrigeration is preferable to storage at room temperature.

### Specimen transport:

Prior to sending your specimens to Manchester, please contact ALL of the named individuals listed below via email to ensure than specimens comply with the acceptance policy and that the CDRN forms are completed with all of the information needed:

Dr A Dodgson	Tel: 0161 276 6010	andrew.dodgson@mft.nhs.uk
Dr K Dodgson	Tel: 0161 276 5746	kirsty.dodgson@mft.nhs.uk
Dr A Birtles	Tel: 0161 701 0407	andrew.birtles@phe.nhs.uk

Compliance with current postal and transportation regulations is essential.

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Specimens will not be accepted unless all patient/sample data has been entered on to the CDRN web system and the sample is accompanied by a completed Specimen Request Form, generated from the CDRN web system.

**Type and volume of sample:** A liquid specimen of 1-2mL is sufficient for culture and toxin detection.

1 gram (large pea-size) of uniformed specimen

**Special precautions:** Formed stools are unsuitable for investigation for *C. difficile*. Only clinical samples found positive for *C. difficile* infection by the referring laboratories *C. difficile* diagnostic methodologies are eligible for ribotyping.

Copies of the following documents are available using the links below:

- (a) Guidance document with selection criteria
- (b) Guidance document for access to the ribotyping service
- (c) *Clostridium difficile* specimen request form (one form for each specimen)
- (d) Guidance on storage of faecal specimens

<https://nwwcdrn.nhs.uk>

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/clostridium-difficile-guidance-data-and-analysis>

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