

September 2021

Enteric Pathogen Panel

Starting October 19, 2021, Methodist Hospital Laboratory will be converting from stool culture (CPT code 87045) to the molecular EP panel on the Verigene (CPT code 87506). This is the recommended first line test in a patient with an uncomplicated diarrheal illness. It includes the most common treatable and epidemiologically significant pathogens in community-acquired diarrhea. It is significantly more sensitive and faster than a stool culture, and also includes pathogens not tested for by a routine stool culture: *Vibrio* group, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, Norovirus, and Rotavirus.

Interpretive Data: Targets offered on the panel are listed below:

Bacteria

- *Campylobacter* Group
- *Salmonella* species
- *Shigella* species
- *Vibrio* Group
- *Yersinia enterocolitica*

Toxins

- Shiga Toxin 1 (stx1)*
- Shiga Toxin 2 (stx2)*

Viruses

- Norovirus (GI/GII)
- Rotavirus (Group A)

* Present in shiga toxin producing strains of *E. coli* (STEC), such as O157.

Specimen Requirements: Stool in Cary-Blair or Parapak® Enteric Plus transport media (place in media within two hours and transport to the lab refrigerated)

Method: Multiplexed Polymerase Reaction (PCR)

Order: Stool Pathogen Panel (PCR)

Turn Around Time: 24-48 hours. Routine testing is performed daily.

Note: Stool culture will still be available on a limited basis, but is intended as a test of cure only.

Please direct any questions to Client Support Services at 402-354-4541, toll free at 888-490-9520 or Microbiology Department at 402-354-4578.