

New Ordering Guidelines for Fecal Calprotectin Testing

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Fecal calprotectin (FC) is a biomarker of intestinal inflammation and is a non-invasive means of monitoring Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) activity. In February, the British Columbia Ministry of Health announced that FC testing would be covered by MSP only for those diagnosed with IBD. FC testing may be used to confirm IBD response to treatment, to confirm remission of IBD activity, and to assist in the identification of IBD relapse.

To comply with these guidelines, LifeLabs will only accept MSP requests for FC testing for patients with IBD. All other requests for FC testing will still be offered but will be charged as a private pay test.

What does this change mean for you as a Health Care Provider?

Please comply with the guidelines outlined by the Ministry of Health, which state that health care providers MUST indicate “IBD” in the diagnosis box on the requisition to ensure that the test request is accepted by MSP.

What does this change mean for your patients?

If the requisition is not filled out accurately (with IBD indicated), the patients will not be covered by MSP. All patients who require MSP-covered FC testing must have the correct diagnosis documented on the requisition. Private pay tests do not require a diagnosis.

When does this change go into effect?

Going forward, please indicate “IBD” on requisition forms for FC testing in order for the test to qualify for MSP coverage.

If you have any further questions, please contact our Call Centre at 1-800-431-7206.

Cefazolin reporting from Urine Cultures

Diana Whellams, MD, FRCPC, Medical Microbiologist



Starting in mid-July, you will see an additional antibiotic reported for some urine cultures—cefazolin.

While cefazolin is an intravenous antibiotic, for some Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*) it can be tested as a “surrogate” antibiotic to predict susceptibility results for some oral cephalosporins (like cephalexin and cefuroxime) when these agents are used for the treatment of

uncomplicated urinary tract infections. (For complicated urinary tract infections, another antibiotic should be chosen). Based on microbiology testing guidelines, cefazolin will only be routinely reported from urine cultures for the above three organisms and with a comment indicating that it predicts results for cephalexin and cefuroxime.

Our hope is that reporting cefazolin provides additional oral treatment options for uncomplicated urinary tract infections caused by common Gram-negative bacteria.

Email and Electronic Fax Requisitions Update

Lida Mosadegh, Communications



Since we launched a centralized service to accept fax and email requisitions, we have observed an overwhelming increase in utilization by physicians. Every day we process more than 7,000 requisitions manually, so patients can visit any LifeLabs collection centre in BC. We aim to process requisitions within 24 hours of receiving them.

To help us process requisitions as quickly possible:

- Fax or email a single requisition at a time;
- Record only the patient's first and last name in the subject line;
- Verify that your fax has been transmitted;
- Ask your patients to wait until the next day to visit one of our collection centres. If that is not possible, we recommend that they bring a physical copy of their requisition to the LifeLabs collection centre instead.

To email a patient's requisition, use: PatientReqsBC@LifeLabs.com

To fax a patient's requisition, use: 1-888-674-0370

We also ask that you please:

- Ensure your patients visit us in a timely manner. We are seeing a large volume of unprocessed requisitions months later.
- Share with your patients that if you have sent a verified fax to LifeLabs it should be in our system. There is no need to call LifeLabs for verification. If we are unable to find the requisition, we will work with the patient to determine a solution to support him/her for collection.

Note: requisition questions from patients are leading to a significant increase in call volume for our call centre agents and phone lines.

- If you send the requisition to your patient, you do not need to fax or email it to us, as we will only be processing the patient's copy.
- As a reminder, email and fax requisitions will be kept for six months.

Thank you for your continued feedback and support as we strive to improve on this service for you and our BC patients!

Disclaimer: LifeLabs is accepting requisitions via email to support our patients who present to a Patient Service Centre with an electronic requisition. There is a risk of inappropriate disclosure when emailing a requisition from a public email domain. The sender is responsible for the security of the electronic copy of the requisition when it is on their mobile device or when it is emailed from the patient's public email domain to LifeLabs. LifeLabs will maintain the security of the requisition when it is received by LifeLabs.