TEST ID: CDIF
CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE CULTURE

USEFUL FOR
Clostridium difficile culture provides an isolate suitable for antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

CLINICAL INFORMATION
Clostridium difficile can cause diarrhea, and may cause pseudomembranous colitis. Overgrowth of toxin-producing Clostridium difficile in the colon leads to the production of toxins A and/or B by the organism, and consequent diarrhea. Clostridium difficile infection should be suspected in patients with symptoms of diarrhea with risk factors such as current or recent use of antibiotics, history of Clostridium difficile infection, current or recent hospitalization or placement in a nursing home or long-term care facility, age >65 years, gastric acid suppression, etc. Clostridium difficile infection is the most common cause of diarrhea in hospitalized patients and may lead to serious complications, including sepsis, bowel perforation, and increased overall mortality (especially in elderly patients). The incidence of Clostridium difficile infection has risen in the community and in healthcare settings. While culture is not the preferred means to diagnose Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea, culture for Clostridium difficile provides an isolate suitable for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Note that this test does not differentiate between toxin-producing and nontoxigenic strains of Clostridium difficile.

INTERPRETATION
- A positive result indicates the presence of viable Clostridium difficile in stool.
- A positive culture may be found with asymptomatic Clostridium difficile colonization with a toxin-producing or non-toxin-producing strain, or with Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea.
- A negative result indicates the absence of Clostridium difficile growth in culture.
- Isolation of Clostridium difficile does not differentiate between toxin-producing and non-toxin-producing strains.

CLINICAL REFERENCE

MOBILE APPS FROM MAYO MEDICAL LABORATORIES

REFERENCE VALUES
No growth after 1 day of incubation.

ANALYTIC TIME
2-5 days