



TEST UPDATE: Shiga Toxin Antigen Effective: 10/31/07

*See Related Information

Name: Shiga Toxin Antigen

CPT Code: 87427 (Qualitative EIA, Shiga-like toxin)

Related Information:

- Stool Culture

Test Includes: Direct (nonculture) detection of Shiga toxins in stool specimens

Laboratory: Microbiology

Availability: Daily

Turnaround Time: 24 hours

Specimen: Liquid stool; semi-solid stool

Volume: 0.5 mL (optimal)

Minimum volume: 0.1-0.2 mL

Container: Clean, airtight container with no preservatives or additives

Collection: Have patient pass stool using one of the following methods:

1. Preferred method: The specimen is passed into a bedpan but must not be contaminated with urine.
2. Alternate method: Place a large plastic bag or “saran wrap” over the toilet seat opening. Once the specimen is passed, use a thoroughly cleaned, dry container for stool collection.

Sampling Time: One specimen per day for up to 3 days



Storage Instructions: Transport as soon as possible at room temperature. If transport time is delayed, refrigerate specimen at 2°C to 8°C for up to 7 days.

Methodology: Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)

Reference Range: Shiga toxin I and II antigen negative by immunoassay

Causes for Rejection: General rejection criteria, rectal swab, formed stool

Limitations: A positive result does not preclude the presence of other pathogenic organisms. Bacterial testing should be performed in parallel with this test to rule out bacterial etiology of illness.