

# Toxigenic *C. difficile* Culture, stool

This specific anaerobic culture identifies *C. difficile*, which is often present in healthy individuals, but can be associated with antibiotic-associated diarrhea. If *C. difficile* is cultured at any level, the sample is automatically tested for all known toxigenic strains using an FDA-cleared, molecular diagnostic DNA assay at no additional charge.

## Turnaround Time

5 to 7 days

## Analytes Tested

Analyte	CPT	ABN Required
Toxigenic <i>C. Difficile</i> Culture; stool	87075	No

This test is useful for

- Antibiotic-Associated Diarrhea
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

## Detailed Information

Clostridia are anaerobic Gram-positive bacteria that do not grow in the more aerobic environment of the distal colon. However Clostridia produce extremely durable endospores as a means of proliferation—the spores are resistant to air, antibiotics, heat, drying and disinfectants. For this test, Doctor's Data uses growth media optimally suited for growth of *Clostridium difficile* and anaerobic culture conditions to germinate the spores to metabolically active bacteria that are sub-cultured for positive identification (speciation). If *C. difficile* is cultured at any level, the sample is automatically tested for all known toxigenic strains using an FDA-cleared, molecular diagnostic DNA assay at no additional charge.

Clostridia generally are resistant to antibiotics and treatment of an overgrowth of *C. difficile*, especially in asymptomatic carriers and infants under age two, is usually not warranted. Additionally, since plasmids have a potential role in transferring various capacities, including antibiotic resistance, from one organism to another, the use of antibiotics in the treatment of clostridia overgrowth should be considered carefully.