



MEMO

To: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

From: Gerald Miller, PhD., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology
Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology

Subject: **Routine Stool Culture designed to include E. coli Shiga Toxin testing**

Date: December 31, 2008

The CDC recommends that routine stool cultures should include testing for Shiga toxins. The recent outbreak of enterohemorrhagic E. Coli (EHEC) stain 0111 in northeastern Oklahoma bears witness to this fact. Many EHEC strains are not detected in a routine stool culture. **Effective January 5, RML's routine stool culture will include the isolation and identification of *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and detection of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* shiga toxins** If culture results warrant, susceptibility testing may be performed and billed as appropriate.

It is important to note that **the new routine stool culture (C STOOL RT)**, will now include detection for the shiga toxin(s) producing *E. coli* strain 0111, as well as other EHEC strains such as 0157.

Stool for culture will need to be submitted in a stool preservative such as Cary-Blair. These are available from RML supply. Specimens need to be placed in the transport media within 2 hours of collection. Please refer to RML's stool collection guide for assistance, located on our website www.RMLOnline.com or by calling Client Services (918-744-2500).

Test Name: **Stool Culture for Bacterial Pathogens**
Order Mnemonic: **C STOOL RT**
Test Number: **60-02450**
Methodology: Standard culture and identification procedures for *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Shiga toxin producing E. coli*
Reference Range: Negative culture for *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Shiga-like toxin producing E. coli*
Specimen Required: **ETM VIAL (RED TOP) or PARAPAK C&S(ORANGE TOP)**
CPT Codes: 87045 *Shigella/Salmonella* culture; 870476 *Campylobacter* culture; 87015, 87899 X 2 for *E.coli* Shiga toxin(s)

If you have questions, please contact Gerald C. Miller, PhD., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology, or Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Microbiology Manager at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077.