**WHAT WILL THE PCR DETECT?**

- Viruses included in the assay are: Rotavirus A and B, Adenovirus 40 and 41, Norovirus GI and GII, Astrovirus and Enterovirus. Protozoans included are Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Dientamoeba fragilis, Entamoeba histolytica and Blastocystis hominis.

**BENEFITS OF TESTING**

- Improved detection of the targeted pathogens in the assay.
- Improved detection of Dientamoeba fragilis when compared to conventional testing.
- Improved detection of less common pathogens not routinely requested e.g. E. histolytica, Enterovirus and Astrovirus.
- No need for multiple stool collections or the use of preservatives (SAF).
- Timely institution of therapy. All 5 protozoa can be treated with a range of anti/protozoal drugs.

**ARE FAECES MICROSCOPY, CULTURE AND SENSITIVITY (MC&S) AND MICROSCOPY FOR PARASITES (OCP) STILL NEEDED?**

- Faeces MC&S is still required to detect infections cause by enteric bacteria, not included in the multiplex PCR.
- Culture is necessary to perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing and monitor the emergence of resistant bacteria.
- Culture assists in identifying bacterial pathogens to the species or serovar level and prevents additional outbreaks by allowing disease reporting to public health units.
- Culture is particularly important when investigating gastrointestinal illness in returning travellers, or immunocompromised patients.
- Helminth infections are not detectable by PCR testing and should be requested as “OCP”.

**HOW TO ORDER**

- Request Faecal MCS + PCR.

Both tests are fully Medicare rebatable, provided only one sample is submitted in a 7-day period. If helminth infection (worms) is suspected, please add “OCP” to the request. Medicare will rebate 2 OCP collections within a 7-day period.

If testing for C difficile is required, please specify this on the request form.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED**

- One stool sample.

**TEST FREQUENCY**

Multiplex faecal PCR will be performed Monday to Friday.

**COST**

- Medicare Bulk Billing available*.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

If further information regarding testing is required, or you need to discuss a patient, please contact your local microbiologist:

- **Dr Linda Dreyer (VIC)**
  P: 03 9538 6730
  E: linda.dreyer@clinicallabs.com.au

- **Dr Stella Pendle (NSW)**
  P: 02 8887 9999
  E: stella.pendle@clinicallabs.com.au

- **Dr Kelly Papanaoum (SA)**
  P: 08 8205 5655
  E: kelly.papanaoum@clinicallabs.com.au

*Bulk billing subject to Medicare guidelines & criteria.

Photo Credit: Dr. Stan Erlandsen