

Clostridium botulinum Toxin Testing

Revised 06/01/2024

Test Description	Clostridium botulinum Toxin Testing
Test Use	Rule-out Botulism
Test Department	New York State Wadsworth Laboratory Albany, NY
Methodology	PCR and/or MALDI-TOF (depending on specimen type)
Availability	Monday-Thursday
Specimen Requirements	Stool, Rectal Swab and/or Enema Wash, serum
Collection Kit/ Container	Sterile Container for stool (no preservative) Acceptable rectal swabs: Dry polyester/dacron/rayon swab placed in sterile container WITH NO PRESERVATIVE – Avoid cotton tip swabs and wooden shafts
Collection Instructions	If enema wash, try to keep liquid to a minimum (wash can dilute out the toxin)
Specimen Handling and Transport	Refrigerator temperature (2°-8°C) for storage and transport
Unacceptable Conditions	Stool in preservative, cotton tip swabs, wooden shaft swabs
Requisition Form	Contact the Bacteriology Laboratory for further ordering instructions (860-920-6596)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter. Two patient identifiers (i.e. name, DOB, Acc.#, MRN), Town of residence (city, state, zip), specimen source/type, date collected, test(s) requested. Please ensure information on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	
Additional Comments	Please include contact information for a point-of-contact for results to be communicated to (i.e. Name, phone number) for timely communication of results.