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To: Health Care Providers

From: Paul Granato, PhD
Russell A. Rawling, MS, MT(ASCP)

Date: May 5, 2017

Subject: Cryptosporidium/Giardia Testing by EIA

The Crypto/Giardia EIA antigen test (CGAGT) is on indefinite backorder from the manufacturer. Because of this, stool specimens submitted for Crypto/Giardia EIA tests will be automatically reflexed to the Crypto/Giardia Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) method. This became effective on May 1, 2017. Please see a detailed explanation of the DFA test found in the Laboratory Alliance Test Directory website.

The DFA method is similar to the EIA test but has better reported detection rates. As such, there is no benefit to ordering the less sensitive antigen test. In addition, the *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* protozoa are visually observed, thereby eliminating any issues of specificity or false-positive test results.

Due to the indefinite backorder of the EIA antigen test and the improved sensitivity of the DFA method, Laboratory Alliance is discontinuing the EIA assay as an in-house laboratory test service. Going forward, please order the Crypto/Giardia DFA assay (OAPDFA). Any orders for the antigen test will be automatically converted to the DFA assay as of May 1 for the reasons stated.

We have discontinued: CGAGT

Please order: OAPDFA

Please contact Dr. Granato, Director of Microbiology, at 315-410-7036, or Mr. Rawling, Microbiology Manager, at 315-410-7060 if you have questions or concerns.

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