

Laboratory Detection of Norovirus in Diarrheal Stool by PCR

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

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Norovirus is a recognized cause of acute gastroenteritis in humans of all ages. Norovirus gastroenteritis can occur sporadically or as outbreaks in communal facilities, such as nursing homes, hospitals, daycare centers, jails and cruise ships. Although symptoms of norovirus infection are usually self-limiting within 48-72 hours, the infection may be potentially life-threatening in the immunocompromised, elderly and very young due to severe dehydration.

On March 16, we will begin offering testing for Norovirus in unformed stool specimens of patients with symptoms of acute gastroenteritis. The test we will provide is a qualitative PCR which detects Norovirus nucleic acid (Cepheid GeneXpert® Norovirus Assay). The test will be performed daily for a turn-around-time of <24 hours. Refer to the UR Medicine Clinical Labs Test Index for information on specimen collection and transport to the laboratory: <https://www.testmenu.com/rochester/Tests/659503>. For additional information contact Dr. Hardy by any of the methods listed above.