



National Public Health  
Service for Wales

Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cenedlaethol Cymru

Anaerobe Reference Laboratory, NPHS  
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Or preferably by HAYS DX to:  
Anaerobe Reference Laboratory,  
DX6070100, CARDIFF 90 CF.  
Tel: 0292074(2171) or (2378)

## **Anaerobe Reference Laboratory and *C. difficile* typing guidelines** (available in electronic format on the HPA and NPHS websites)

These guidelines are designed to support the collection of good epidemiological and typing data to increase our understanding of *C.difficile* disease.

### ***Criteria for submission of isolates for PCR Ribotyping:-***

- Sudden increase in cases of *C.difficile* disease over your baseline rate.
- Increased severity of disease and/or deaths associated with *C. difficile* infection.
- A maximum of 10 isolates per referral would normally be most appropriate.
- **Complete** ARU *C.difficile* PCR Ribotyping request form including patient names and dates of birth and including full details of the sender and the HPA laboratory performing culture (if applicable).
- **Completed Outbreak Questionnaire**, including a brief history of the outbreak, wards involved and reasons for requesting typing investigations. Clinical details of disease severity and deaths are necessary to maximise our understanding of the epidemiology of *C. difficile* disease.
- Single isolates will not normally be tested- please discuss any specific cases with the Head of the Laboratory prior to submission –for these cases please telephone Dr Jon Brazier on 0292074 2378 or 2171.

### ***Unacceptable requests:***

- Faeces specimens are not accepted – isolates only please.
- Specimens received with incomplete request form or questionnaire.
- No clear reasons for requesting typing investigations.

**Please Note:-** We will hold your specimens for a period of 1 month, following which, if the above criteria have not been met (or we have not received any correspondence at all from you) they will be discarded.