

Gastrointestinal Pathogens Algorithm

Community Acquired diarrhea <7 days duration WITHOUT warning signs or risk factors for severe disease ¹

Testing generally not indicated

If diarrhea persists

**Community-acquired diarrhea ≥7 days duration
OR
Travelers-related diarrhea
OR
Diarrhea with warning signs for severe disease ¹**

[GPSM / Gastrointestinal Panel, Stool, Molecular ³](#)
[Consider O/P Parasitic Examination](#) if traveler with >2 weeks of symptoms ⁴

Negative

If diarrhea persists

Consider GI Specialty Referral

Positive

No Additional Testing Required

Negative

If diarrhea persists

Consider GI Specialty Referral

Health care-associated diarrhea (onset after the 3rd inpatient day) or patients with recent antibiotic use

CDIFF / Clostridium difficile, Cytotoxigenic DNA, Stool

¹ Warning signs and risk factors for severe disease include fever, bloody diarrhea, dysentery, severe abdominal pain, dehydration, hospitalization, and immunocompromised state.

³ GI Pathogen Panel tests for common bacterial, viral and parasitic causes of diarrhea

⁴ Submit 3 stool collected on separate days for maximum sensitivity
Note: in outbreak scenarios with a known organism, consider ordering a specific test for that organism.