



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
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Test Order

Adult *Clostridium botulinum* Toxin Detection

Synonym(s)	
Methodology	Mouse bioassay
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Pre-antitoxin serum (+/- stool). Alternative: gastric aspirate, excised tissues, post-antitoxin serum: please call for consultation.
Transport / Collection Medium	Pre-antitoxin serum: collect at least 8 ml of serum, NOT hemolyzed; submit in leak-proof container. Stool: submit 25 g of stool or enema in a clean, dry container without transport media.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Refrigerate until transported to the laboratory (do not freeze). Serum and stool should be packaged and shipped on cold packs (not dry ice). Do not allow cold packs to directly contact the samples.
Minimum Volume Required	8 ml of serum, 25 g of stool.
Additional Collection Instructions	N/A
Additional Required Information	Consultation with San Francisco Communicable Disease Control at 415-554-2830 required.
Send Out?	Yes: Testing performed at the California Department of Public Health
Turnaround Time	Up to 15 days
Testing Restrictions	Consultation with San Francisco Communicable Disease Control required.
Requisition Form(s)	http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	The following medications can interfere with the mouse bioassay to detect botulinum toxin: neostigmine bromide, neostigmine methyl sulfate, pyridostigmine bromide, edrophonium, ambenonium chloride. Note: botulinum toxin detection is not a rapid or STAT test; it is an "in-vivo reference test."

Updated 2/10/2017