



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
101 Grove Street, Room 419
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel: (415) 554-2800 Fax: (415) 431-0651
Mark Pandori, PhD., Lab Director
CLIA ID # 05D0643643

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 15 ml of serum, NOT hemolyzed; submit in leak-proof container. Stool : submit 10-25 grams 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	15 ml of serum, 10-25 grams of stool or 20 ml of enema if solid stool cannot be obtained, ≥10ml of enriched broth,
Additional Collection Instructions	Serum : Collect 30 ml of whole blood in Red, Yellow or Tiger top tubes. Centrifuge clot tubes to separate approximately 15 ml of serum and aliquot into transfer tubes before shipping or storage. Enema : Collect an enema if patient is profoundly constipated. Collect fecal material using sterile, non-bacteriostatic water per rectum with a tube and syringe, or digital rectal examination. Do not use glycerin suppositories. Use a sterile urine cup as the primary collection container.
	Storage conditions: Serum : 7 days from time of collection when stored refrigerated at 2 - 8°C Do not freeze Feces : 2 weeks from time of collection when stored refrigerated at 2 - 8°C Culture : Stable for 2 weeks from time of inoculation when stored refrigerated at 2 - 8°C, or incubated at 30 - 37°C
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 7/26/23