

Laboratory Service Provider Bulletin

July 31, 2019

Effective July 17, 2019, the Ministry of Health (Ministry) provisionally approved fecal calprotectin (FC) testing as an insured benefit for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients in BC who are treated with a biologic agent. FC is an indirect marker of intestinal inflammation and is a non-invasive means of monitoring IBD stability and treatment efficacy. Increases and decreases in FC concentration reflect mucosal damage and healing, respectively.

FC testing will support the Ministry's Biosimilars Initiative that comes into effect on August 15, 2019. Initially, LifeLabs will provide FC testing. Royal Columbia Hospital (Fraser Health Authority) and Victoria General Hospital (Island Health Authority) are anticipated to have the test available in the coming months. Additional testing sites may be available within the next 12 months.

Test Requests

FC can be requested by all physicians who are monitoring IBD patients receiving biologic therapies.

At this time, the Ministry has not insured fecal calprotectin testing for other clinical indications.

Specimen Handling and Reporting

Specimen type	Stool, no preservatives
Minimum volume	10 grams
Specimen handling	Store and ship stool specimens at 2-8°C <i>Refrigerated samples are stable for 72 hours</i>
Laboratory method	Immunoassay
Turnaround time	14 days
Synonyms	Stool calprotectin F-cal

Contact

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