

C.diff ALGORITHM

Patient passes ≥ 3 liquid diarrheal stools in 24 hours
(Bristol Stool Chart **Type 6-7**)

YES

Is it probable the diarrhea is caused by any of the following?

- pathophysiology (IBD, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's)
- laxatives or stool softeners
- tube feeds
- GI prep (Go Lightly)
- medications with common side effect of diarrhea

YES

Continue to monitor

Use your nursing judgement:
If it looks like C. diff,
if it smells like C. diff...
test the stool for C. diff

NO

Does the patient have symptoms of *C. difficile* infection?

- fever
- abdominal pain/tenderness
- loss of appetite
- nausea

NO

Document these symptoms in chart

YES

1. Initiate contact precautions
2. Notify provider of symptoms
3. Obtain order for labs: C. diff and lactoferrin

(-)

NEGATIVE Test:
Remove from precautions

(+)








POSITIVE Test

1. Notify the Team Leader
2. Get the C-DIFF folder:
 - Gather appropriate PPE and place outside of room
 - Hang GI Contact precaution signs
 - Post the cleaning checklist in the room
 - Place bleach wipes in patient room
 - Provide patient/visitor education
 - Maintain GI contact precautions until discharge
(removal of precautions: only per Infection Control Coordinator
– to be determined on a case by case basis)

Risk Factors for *C. difficile* infection

- Recent antibiotic use OR use in past 90 days
- History of *C. difficile* infection
- Recent hospitalization
- Resident of long term care facility
- Immunocompromised
- Has an feeding tube
- Recent gastrointestinal surgery
- On medications that suppress stomach acid

Bristol Stool Chart

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid