

***Clostridiooides difficile* Infection Stool Collection Algorithm**

Did the patient have three or more liquid stools within a 24-hour time period at any time during admission that was not a normal bowel pattern for the patient?*

 Yes

Place patient on enteric precautions until *C. difficile* is ruled out.

 No

Observe for 24 hours for persistence of symptoms.

Do not order test for *C. difficile*.

Has patient taken laxatives and/or stool softeners in the past 24–48 hours?

 Yes

Obtain an order to send **one** stool specimen to be tested for *C. difficile* (specimen **must** conform to specimen container).

Is the specimen positive for *C. difficile*?

 Yes

Stop laxatives and/or stool softeners and re-assess patient **prior** to ordering test for *C. difficile*.

Determine underlying cause of loose stools and **stop** enteric precautions.

Continue ordered treatment and keep patient on enteric precautions.

Do not send follow-up test for *C. difficile*.

*Liquid stool alone is not a singular indication for *Clostridiooides difficile* (*C. difficile*). It is important to consider the clinical presentation of additional risk factors: antibiotic therapy in the last 45 days, hospitalization in the last 30 days, nursing home residency, currently taking medications to reduce stomach acid (such as proton pump inhibitors), and a history of *C. difficile*.