

Clostridium difficile Testing and Sporicidal Cleaning Algorithm

Patient presents with 3 or more liquid stools in 24 hours
(6 / 7 on the Bristol Stool Chart)

Practice Point: Stool requirements for Discontinuing Precautions

***Relapses:** Precautions must be in place for the duration of the treatment **and** resolution of diarrhea for 72 hours **and** at least one formed stool

Patients with liquid stools as their baseline must remain on precautions with sporicidal cleaning for the duration of their stay, unless approved by IPAC.

- Initiate contact precautions
- Send stool for testing
 - Inpatient >72 hr: Order *C. difficile* toxin
 - Inpatient <72 hr: Order GPMP
 - Outpatient: Order GPMP

Lab Results

“Negative for C.difficile antigen and toxin”

Suggestive that another source is likely cause of diarrhea

Ongoing diarrhea

Yes

No

Continue Contact precautions, no sporicidal clean

May send another stool at 48 hours if suspicion for cdiff remains high.

No sporicidal clean And
Continue contact precautions until resolution of diarrhea for 48 hrs and at least one formed stool

“Abnormal” OR “Antigen positive/toxin negative”

Suggestive of **Colonization with C.difficile**

Ongoing diarrhea

Yes

No

Initiate ongoing sporicidal clean And
Continue Contact Precautions until resolution of diarrhea for at least 72 hours and at least one formed stool
Send another stool specimen as soon as possible after the result comes back

Initiate a one time sporicidal clean And
Continue Contact Precautions until resolution of diarrhea for at least 48 hours and at least one formed stool

“Positive” OR “Antigen positive/toxin positive”

Suggestive of **C.difficile Infection (CDI)**

Initiate ongoing sporicidal clean And
Contact Plus precautions until resolution of diarrhea for at least 72 hours and documentation of at least one formed stool (Bristol Stool Chart 1-5) *
Continue sporicidal clean until precautions discontinued.