



Clostridium difficile

SUSPECT.....
ISOLATE
GLOVES AND APRONS
HAND WASHING.....
TESTING.....

- Diarrhoea – Bristol stool chart type 5 -7?
- Single room
- For contact with the environment/exposure risk to body fluids
- Soap and water
- Obtain specimen



Stool Chart

Stool Type	Description	Frequency	Color	Consistency	Other
1	Hard lumps	Less than 3 times a week	Dark	Hard	
2	Sausage-shaped	3-4 times a week	Dark	Hard	
3	Sausage-shaped with cracks	3-4 times a week	Dark	Hard	
4	Sausage-shaped	3-4 times a week	Dark	Soft	
5	Soft blobs with flat surfaces	3-4 times a week	Dark	Soft	
6	Pasty, loose	3-4 times a week	Dark	Soft	
7	Watery	More than 4 times a week	Dark	Watery	

ACTIONS

Stool chart – use to monitor severity and risk of dehydration/electrolyte imbalance

Antibiotic review – recent history/is current treatment required/right drug (route/dose)?

Medications review – laxatives, antidiarrhoeal, proton pump inhibitors (stop if possible)

Environmental hygiene – clean with chlorine based disinfectants



Clostridium difficile PCR positive - No toxins but patient is at higher risk of developing infection

Clostridium difficile toxin positive - Clostridium difficile infection