Algorithms for Prevention and Management of Clostridium difficile Infections in Long-term Care Facilities

- A1 Early Recognition and Testing
- A2 Contact Precautions
- A3 Room Placement
- A3.1 Identifying Lower Risk Roommates
- A4 Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
- A5 Social and Activity Precautions

Definitions and commonly used acronyms

ADL: activities of daily living

CDI: Clostridium difficile infection

HH: hand hygiene

PPE: personal protective equipment

PPIs: proton pump inhibitors

Standard Precautions (SP): for the care of all residents, all of the time

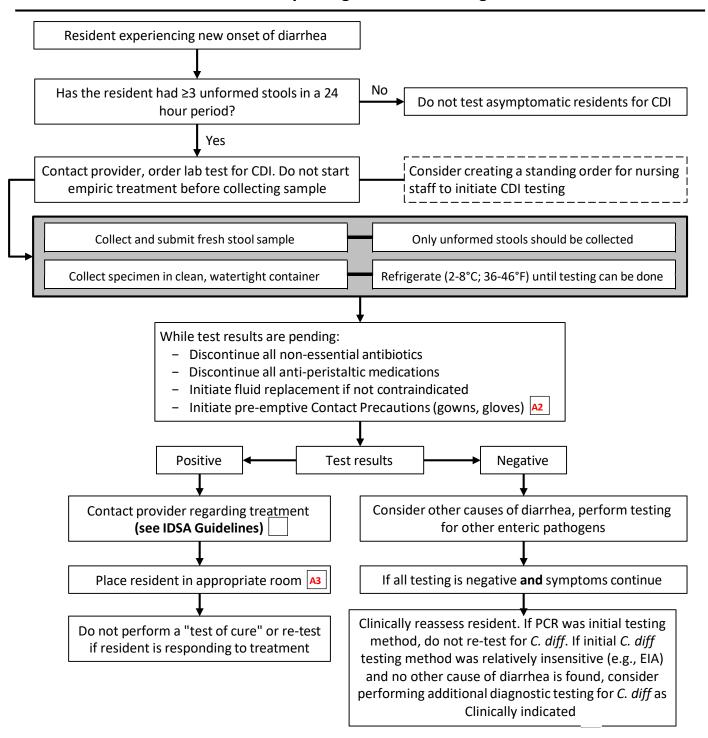
 Wear gloves, gown, mask or eye protection if you anticipate you may have any contact with body fluids (direct contact, spraying, or splashing) while performing care to the resident

Contact Precautions (CP): for the care of residents with CDI symptoms

- Always wear gloves and a gown to provide care to the resident
- Place resident in a private room, if available
- Dedicate equipment to individual residents who have CDI whenever possible (e.g., commodes, blood pressure cuffs, and stethoscopes)
- Clean and disinfect all shared equipment immediately after use and before use with any other resident



A1. Early Recognition and Testing

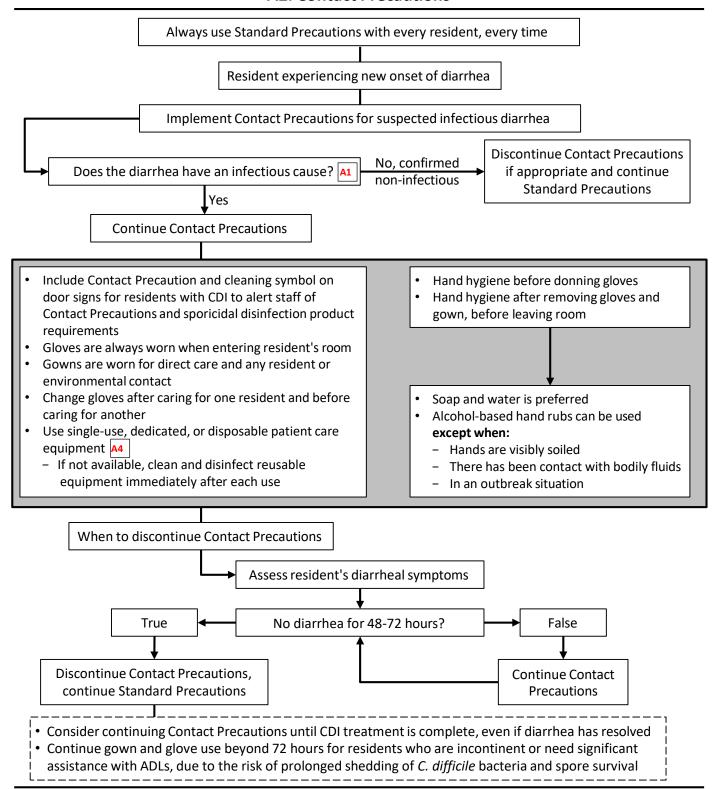


Action Items:

Train staff to recognize CDI symptoms and to submit only unformed stools for CDI testing Establish policy with lab to reject formed and repeat stools for CDI testing Know what diagnostic testing method is used by your laboratory



A2. Contact Precautions



Action Items:

Provide gowns, gloves, and alcohol-based hand rubs outside resident's room
Assure laundry bin, trash can, and alcohol-based hand rubs are readily accessible inside resident's room



A3. Room Placement

Rooming Residents with CDI Private room, toilet, and shower/bath are recommended and preferred whenever possible 3rd Choice 2nd Choice 1st Choice Private (single) Private (single) Shared room with shared bathroom room with private room with shared bathroom bathroom Cohort with resident with active C. diff diarrhea Move resident Move resident No resident to private room to private meets criteria Resident with (single) room active CDI Resident should Move to room with Move to room with a use only the should use a another resident with resident at lower risk separate toilet private for CDI A3.1 active diarrhea bathroom while (e.g., dedicated commode) on Contact Precautions while on Contact Precautions Perform HH and change PPE between each resident Keep a minimum 3 foot barrier between living spaces Use privacy curtain or tape on floor to emphasize separation Resident(s) with active CDI should use a separate toilet (e.g., dedicated commode) while either resident in the room is on Contact Precautions Use commode liners whenever possible. Immediately clean and disinfect commode/toilet and arm rests/grab bars after each use A4 Bathing residents with CDI Always have residents with active CDI use a shower and avoid use of bath tubs Clean and disinfect shower/tub area immediately after every resident use

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Preferably, resident(s) with active CDI shower after residents without active CDI

A3.1 Identifying Lower Risk Roommates

Primary considerations

Not currently taking antibiotics (1st choice)

or has not taken antibiotics in previous 4 weeks (2nd choice) or has not taken antibiotics in previous 12 weeks (3rd choice)

No history of prior CDI (1st choice)

or has no CDI in previous 4 weeks (2nd choice) or has no CDI in previous 12 weeks (3rd choice)

Secondary considerations

- Not currently on proton pump inhibitors (PPIs)
- No GI/bowel condition comorbidities (diverticular disease, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's, peptic ulcer disease)
- No PEG/PEJ tube (no tube feeds)
- Not severely immunocompromised (cancer, chemotherapy, or solid organ transplant)
- Not bedbound/heavily dependent on healthcare workers for ADLs



A4. Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Resident(s) with CDI

Select proper cleaning and disinfection products. Always follow manufacturer's instructions regarding proper storage, shelf life, contact time, dilution, application, and surface appropriateness

<u>Clean first:</u> Use a hospital-grade, EPA-registered cleaner to mechanically remove visible debris

<u>Disinfect second:</u> Must use a hospital-grade product with a sporicidal claim or a 10% bleach solution

Every Shift

High-Touch Areas:

- Door handles
- Bed rails
- Chairs
- Call buttons
- Toilet seats
- Grab bars
- Light switches
- Telephones
- TV remotes
- Sink/faucetToilet flush handle

Horizontal Surfaces:

- Bedside tables
- Tray tables
- Counters
- Floors

Dedicated Equipment:

- Thermometers
- Stethoscopes
- Blood pressure cuffs
- Oximeters
- Glucometers

Terminal

Target all areas of the room, including all daily areas, plus:

- Bed frames
- Curtains
- Walls
- Mattresses
- Pillows
- Other furniture

Bathroom

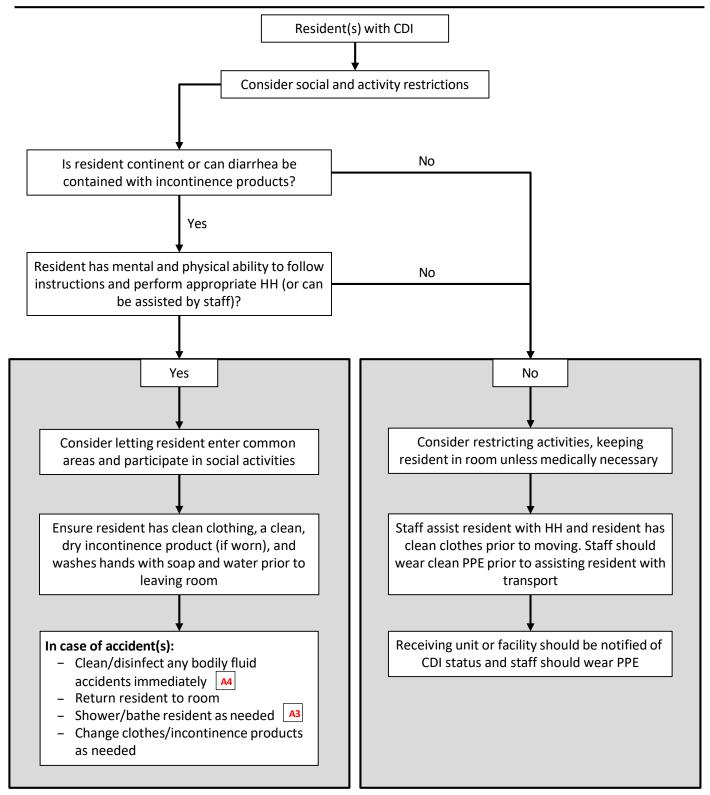
- Use commode liners whenever possible; if not using, empty commode in resident's toilet (never in the sink)
- Immediately clean and disinfect commode/toilet (including seat, flush handle, arm rests/grab handles) after each use and/or emptying
- Use a separate cloth for cleaning only the commode/toilet
- Always clean bathroom last, and clean from least contaminated (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, handrails) to most contaminated (e.g., sink handles, seat, flush handle)
 - Always clean from clean to dirty and from high to low
 - Microfiber cloths are preferred over cotton cloths
 - Cloths should not be pre-soaked or re-dipped in an open bucket system
 - Discard facility items that cannot be disinfected (bag personal items)
 - · Clean rooms of residents with active CDI last
 - Change cleaning solution, mop, bucket, and cloths after cleaning each room

Action Items:

Train Environmental Service staff on importance of cleaning and disinfection and the transmission of disease Establish responsibility for different elements of environmental cleaning and disinfection Provide Environmental Service staff with high-touch cards for reference Include cleaning symbol on door signs for residents with CDI to alert Environmental Services staff



A5. Social and Activity Precautions



Action Items:

Ensure a facility transfer form exists for transferring residents between facilities

