

Testing for *C. diff* when not indicated can harm your patient



Some patients are colonized with *C. diff* but do not have active infections. Testing a patient without symptoms may result in:



Unnecessary antibiotics (and side effects)

Avoidable isolation precautions



Higher healthcare costs for patients (and hospitals)

Increased lengths of stay



When should I test my patient for *C. diff*?

- ≥ 3 liquid stools within 24 hours, without another known medical reason
- No laxatives within past 48 hours*

*If patient has unexplained fever, abdominal pain, AND leukocytosis, testing may be indicated.

Follow Epic process instructions for timing after previous tests.

Testing not recommended for patients under age 2.

When caring for a patient with *C. diff*,

REMEMBER:



Wash hands with soap and water only

Practice Antimicrobial Stewardship

Order and follow Enteric Precautions

Clean room & equipment with bleach wipes

Ensure room cleaned with UV at discharge

visit the *C. diff* page on the Intranet (under Infection Prevention) for more info