

Management of Patients with Diarrhea in Acute Care/ER

Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Stool Output/Assessment		
Last BM Date	16/09/2023	
Stool Amount		
Stool Consistency		
Stool Appearance		Hard separate lumps
Stool Colour		Lumpy sausage
Unmeasured Stool Occurrence		Cracked sausage
Bowel Incontinence	No	No
Stool (mL)		Smooth soft sausage
		Soft blobs
		Fluffy pieces in liquid
		Watery (no solid pieces)
		Next Row

Document consistency and frequency of stool to determine NEXT STEPS

Suspect Gastrointestinal Illness (GI)

2 or more episodes of fluffy pieces in liquid or watery stool in a **24-hour** period, which is new or unusual for the patient
OR
1 episode of bloody diarrhea

Initiate Precautions



- ✓ Collect stool sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ Refer to the Acute Care Resource Manual

Does the patient have loose or watery stool?

Fluffy pieces in liquid or watery stool
 (Type 6 or 7 on the Bristol Stool Chart)

Suspect Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI)

3 or more episodes of fluffy pieces in liquid or watery stool in a **24-hour** period, which is new or unusual for the patient
OR
6 or more fluffy pieces in liquid or watery stool in a **36-hour** period, which is new or unusual for the patient

Initiate Precaution



Diarrhea and vomiting →



- ✓ Collect stool sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ Refer to CDI Management on the IPC Central Zone tab for further information
- ✓ Refer to the Acute Care Resource Manual

Do you need to consider a GI/CDI outbreak?

2 or more people with onset of similar symptoms in a **48-hour** period
 Refer to [MOH - Central Zone | Alberta Health Services](#) for additional resources

Discontinue precautions when patient has been without symptoms for 48 hours and has had at least one normal or formed bowel movement

For more information contact: ipccenzadmin@ahs.ca

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