

NORTH ZONE ACUTE CARE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS (GI) ALGORITHM

Are there 2 or more cases of hospital-acquired GI illness within 48 hours on the same unit?

Symptoms to watch for:

- ◆ 2 episodes of diarrhea in 24 hrs
- ◆ 2 episodes of vomiting in 24 hours
- ◆ 1 episode of vomiting AND diarrhea in 24 hrs
- ◆ 1 episode of bloody diarrhea

***NOTE:** Symptoms are new and unexpected for the person and not due to Clostridium difficile, medications, laxatives, diet or prior medical condition.*

IF YES, prevent the spread:

- ◆ Initiate **Contact Precautions** including appropriate signage- private room with private bathroom preferred (or dedicated commode).
- ◆ Patients should leave the room for essential purposes only (after performing hand hygiene and donning clean outer clothing).
- ◆ Symptomatic staff to go home.
- ◆ Continue **Contact Precautions** for patients and staff remain off work until symptoms have stopped for **48 hours** and after at least one normal/formed bowel movement.
- ◆ Dedicated equipment for this patient only. Clean and disinfect all reusable equipment before use on another patient.
- ◆ Perform hand hygiene using alcohol based hand rub when hands are not visibly soiled.
- ◆ Wash hands with plain soap and water if visibly soiled and following glove removal when caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- ◆ **Gloves** to be worn on entry into patient's room, when cleaning areas contaminated with feces or emesis, and when collecting/handling specimens.
- ◆ **Gowns** to be worn on entry into patient's room and when cleaning areas contaminated with feces or emesis to protect against possible contamination of clothing.
- ◆ Wear **procedure mask and eye protection** for patients with active diarrhea and vomiting.

IF NO, continue with routine practices, including proper hand hygiene according to the 4 Moments and watch for GI illness cases.

Report all outbreaks to NZ CDC Intake.

During regular office hours, call 1-855-513-7530.
Evenings/weekends/stat holidays, call 1-800-732-8981 and ask for Public Health on Call.

Notify the site Infection Control Professional (ICP).

Next Steps:

- ◆ Manager to complete Acute Care Early Outbreak Recognition Form (for CDC Intake).
- ◆ Complete Acute Care Outbreak Line List **daily** (fax to number on line list).
- ◆ Continue to monitor patients and staff for new cases (include on Outbreak Line List).
- ◆ **Notify all facility departments especially Environmental Services and Patient Food Services of the outbreak.**