

Calgary Zone Acute Care/Continuing Care/Mental Health
Checklist for *Clostridium Difficile* Infection (CDI)

This checklist should be initiated for every query and confirmed CDI case that meets case definition.

1. Case Definitions:Query

- Meets diarrhea definition: (6 or more watery stools in a 36 hour period, OR 3 or more unformed stools in a 24 hour period AND is new or unusual for the patient)
- Send stool for CDI testing, if not already sent. Transport to lab as soon as reasonably possible.

Confirmed (meets one or both criteria)

- Meets diarrhea definition + positive toxin test
- Evidence of pseudomembranous colitis on endoscopy or histological/pathological diagnosis of CDI

2. Patient/Resident Review:

- Track bowel movements using SCM flowsheets, use Bristol Stool Chart as the reference guide to document stool consistency and frequency
https://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1451532/22180508/1363249562587/bristol_stool_chart.pdf
- HOLD laxatives and anti-diarrheal agents

3. Additional Precautions:

- Initiate contact precautions immediately. Do not wait for lab result.
- Accommodate patient/resident in private room. If private room is unavailable, ensure CDI+ patient is not sharing a toilet with others.
- Place Sporicidal Precautions sign on the door to patient's room
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-prov-sporicidal-clean-sign.pdf>
- Wear gloves and gown on room entry
- Dedicate patient care equipment where possible. Clean shared patient care equipment with sporicidal AHS approved cleaning/disinfecting wipes using good friction and proper technique. Clean with general purpose cleaner Accel Prevention (AHP) and disinfect with (Sanicloth bleach product) or as directed by IP&C.

4. Communication:

- Post "Sporicidal Precautions" sign on entrance to patient's/resident's room
- Place "Sporicidal Precautions" sign on front of patient's/resident's chart
- Notify receiving facility or unit of patient/resident status if patient/resident requires transfer
- Unit to ensure education for visitors regarding additional precautions and hand hygiene

5. Hand Hygiene/Patient Hygiene:

- Use soap and water to perform hand hygiene after contact with patient/resident or their environment. Alcohol based hand rub (Microsan) is **not** effective against *C. difficile* spores. For room entry, you may clean hands with alcohol based hand rub or soap and water.
- Encourage daily bath or shower for patient/resident. Bed-baths or bath-in-a bag products are acceptable.
- Review CDI info sheet with patient or patient's agent

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Pages/Learning-about-clostridium-difficile-in-the-hospital>

6. Linen/Clothing:

- Send all facility supplied linens (bedding, pajamas, etc.) to AHS Linen services
- Options for laundering of patient/resident's personal laundry in order of best practice:
- Using HOT for wash and dry, recommendation for bleach

7. Waste Linen/Clothing:

- Handle waste in accordance with Waste Management Policy
<https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/policydocuments/1/clp-prov-esm-waste-mgmt-policy-esm-01.pdf>
- Do not empty bedpans into patient toilet and NEVER rinse using patient sink

8. Patient Movement within Facility:

- Assess patient/resident to determine if limiting patient/resident movement outside the room is Necessary (Eg., PT in hallway, DI)
Rooms of other patients/residents are not to be entered by a symptomatic patient.
- Is the patient/resident willing and able to follow directions with assistance?
 - Yes No
- Can diarrhea be contained? (E.g. by brief)
 - Yes No
- Patient/resident shall perform hand hygiene with soap and water prior to leaving room and must wear clean clothing.

9. Discontinuation of Precautions:

- Consideration will be given after patient has been asymptomatic for 48 hours and patient/resident has had at least one normal stool (based on patient's/resident's normal bowel habits)
- DO NOT remove additional precaution sign from patient door until AFTER cleaning complete.
- Ensure patient/resident is showered/bathed
- Ensure patients/resident's clothing is laundered
- Discard any facility supplied lotions/creams/toothpaste/toothbrush
- Monitor for signs of relapse. Reinitiate contact precautions at first signs of diarrhea.

References and supporting documents

CDI Surveillance Protocol – Available on AHS Insite>Home>Our Teams/Departments>Infection Prevention & Control>IPC Surveillance>Protocols

Routine Practice Info sheet – <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ipc/hi-ipc-routine-practices-info.pdf>

Contact Precaution Info sheet – <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ipc/hi-ipc-contact-precautions-info.pdf>

Sporicidal Precaution poster – <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-prov-sporicidal-clean-sign.pdf>

Domestic Laundry poster – <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-bpg-domestic-laundry-poster.pdf>

CDI Patient Info sheet – <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/alberta/pages/learning-about-clostridium-difficile-in-the-hospital.aspx>

Bristol Stool Chart – https://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1451532/22180508/1363249562587/bristol_stool_chart.pdf