

Introducing the Central Zone *C.difficile* Infection Toolkit

Central Zone Antimicrobial Stewardship Working Group is endorsing the use of a set of tools to assist providers in managing care of those with *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI). The CDI Toolkit includes pre-printed care orders (PPCO), a patient management flow map, Contact Sporicidal Precautions sign and a checklist for nursing staff.

WHY WAS THIS DONE?

- There are established, evidence based guidelines for CDI.¹ A standardized approach to the diagnosis and treatment of CDI reduces mortality and infection recurrence.²
- Knowledge and practice gaps have been reported in Central Zone, including (but not limited to):
 - Empiric antibiotic therapy choice for CDI, and following a step wise approach for treating reinfections
 - Formed stools being sent for *C. diff.* testing
 - Tests for cure routinely ordered
 - Use of anti-diarrheal medications with known or suspected CDI
- The information in the PPCO and supporting tools address the knowledge and practice gaps, and incorporate current evidence and best practices. They are customized for use in Central Zone.

HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT:

- For any patient or resident with suspect or confirmed CDI, the PPCO should be implemented.
- The PPCO will be available through each area's regular processes for obtaining and storing forms. The form number is 19867.
- The flow map and checklist are references to guide patient and resident management. Poster size and laminated copies of flow maps are available from your AHS IPC professional.
- Contact Sporicidal Precautions signs for when CDI cases are identified.
- CDI tools are available on the Central Zone IPC webpage.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/page15161.aspx#details-panel15158>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact your local Pharmacist or an AHS Infection Control Professional
- Central Zone Drug Stewardship: AHS.PharmacyDrugStewardshipCentral@ahs.ca

1. Surawicz CM, Brandt LJ, Binion DG, et al. Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Clostridium difficile Infections. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2013;108(4):478-498. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ajg.2013.4>.

2. Brown AT, Seifert CF. Effect of Treatment Variation on Outcomes in Patients with Clostridium difficile. *Am J Med.* 2014;127(9):865-870. doi:10.1016/j.amjmed.2014.05.016.