

Management of Patients with Diarrhea in Acute Care/Emergency Room

North Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Does the patient have loose or watery stool?

Suspect Gastrointestinal Illness (GI)

2 or more episodes of loose or watery stool in a 24-hour period, which is new or unusual for the patient

OR

1 episode of bloody diarrhea

Place patient on Contact Precautions

If actively vomiting, place on Contact Droplet Precautions



- ✓ Send sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ [Refer to AHS IPC online Acute Care Resource Manual](#)



- Hard separate lumps
- Lumpy sausage
- Cracked sausage
- Smooth soft sausage
- Soft blobs
- Fluffy pieces in liquid
- Watery (no solid pieces)

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 the Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Acute Care Sites](#)

Suspect *Clostridioides Difficile* Infection (CDI)

3 or more episodes of loose or watery stools in a 24-hour period, which is new or unusual for the patient

OR

6 or more loose or watery stools in a 36-hour period,

Place patient on Contact Precautions Sporidical Clean



- ✓ Send stool sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ [Refer to AHS IPC online Acute Care Resource Manual](#)
- ✓ Refer to AHS IPC North Zone online CDI Toolkit for further information

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



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Original date: October 13, 2016
Revised date: December 8, 2023