

**South 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 (see below)
 - Send stool for CDI testing, if not already sent. Transport to lab within 2 hrs of collection. Formed stool will not be tested.

Inconclusive results are referred for PCR testing. If symptoms continue, checklist should be followed.

- Confirmed (meets one or both criteria)
 - Meets diarrhea definition + positive toxin test
 - Evidence of pseudomembranous colitis on endoscopy or histological/pathological diagnosis of CDI

Diarrhea definition:

Patient/resident has 6 or more unformed/ watery stools in a 36 hour periods or 3 or more unformed/ watery stools in a 24 hour period and this is new or unusual for the patient or resident.

2. Patient/ Resident Review:

- Initiate a log for tracking of bowel movements (Form 20404, Stock #0015382). Use Bristol Stool Chart as the reference guide to document stool consistency and frequency.
- Ensure physician supports initiation of CDI pre-printed care orders (PPCO) (Form 20734, Stock #0015523)
- Consult clinical pharmacist for medication review
 - Review M.A.R and medication reconciliation form with pharmacist. Note use of antibiotics, acid reducing therapy (proton pump inhibitor, H2-antagonist) and/or antineoplastic medications within the past 8 weeks.
 - HOLD laxatives and anti-diarrheal agents (may obscure symptoms).

3. Additional Precautions:

- Initiate contact precautions immediately. Do not wait for lab result.
- Accommodate patient/resident in private room. If private room is unavailable, separate patient/resident from all other patients/residents in the room by a distance of 2 meters. Assign commode or dedicate washroom to the patient/resident.
 - Notify Environmental Services of isolation clean on previous room
 - If patient is using a commode or bedpan, consult IPC appropriate waste management
- Ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) is readily available for all staff in/on isolation cart outside of room door
- Wear gloves and gown on room entry
- Dedicate patient care equipment where possible. Clean and disinfect shared patient care equipment
 - Remove other cleaning wipes from patient room. Only PCS 1000 wipes should be used.

4. Communication:

- Post "Contact Precautions" sign on entrance to patient's/resident's room
- Place "Contact Precaution" Sign on the front inside cover of the patient chart
- Notify receiving facility or unit of patient/resident status if patient/resident requires transfer
- Ensure education for visitors regarding additional precautions & hand hygiene

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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.
- Instruct and assist patient/resident with hand hygiene using soap and water before leaving their room.
- Promote 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/alberta/Pages/Learning-about-clostridium-difficile-in-the-hospital.aspx>

6. Linen/ Clothing:

- Place dedicated linen hamper inside patient's/resident's room. Handle soiled linen/clothing in accordance with routine practices.
- 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:
 - Send home with family/ caregiver for regular laundering
 - Send patient/resident owned linen/clothing to AHS Linen Services where possible
 - Wash in facility domestic washers. Disinfect machine after use with hospital approved disinfectant wipes or liquid. Refer to Laundry Poster - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-bpg-domestic-laundry-poster.pdf>

7. Waste:

- Handle waste in accordance with Routine Practices.
- 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.
 - Yes No Is the patient/resident willing and able to follow directions with assistance?
 - Yes No Can diarrhea be contained? (e.g. by a brief)
 If all answers are yes, patient/resident may leave their room. Rooms of others patients/residents are not to be entered by the symptomatic patient.
- Patient/resident is to perform hand hygiene upon leaving room and must wear clean clothing.

9. Discontinuation of Precautions

- Consult with IPC prior to discontinuing additional precautions. Consideration will be given after patient has been a symptomatic for 48 hours and patient/resident has had at least one normal stool (based on patient's/resident's normal bowl habits)
- Contact Environmental Services to perform discharge clean of room. Remove additional precaution sign from patient door AFTER clean is complete. Remove sign from the front of the patient chart.
- Ensure patient/resident is showered/bathed.
- Change bed linens.
- Ensure patients/resident's clothing is laundered.
- Discard any facility supplied lotions/creams.
- Monitor for signs of relapse. Reinitiate contact precautions at first signs of diarrhea. **Any questions or concerns may be directed to your site Infection Control Professional.**

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>

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

Bristol Stool Chart – Order through local process – Form # 20404, Stock # 0015382

CDI Patient Info Sheet - <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/alberta/Pages/Learning-about-clostridium-difficile-in-the-hospital.aspx>

Adapted from CDI Checklist - AHS Central Zone (IPC 2015)