

North Zone Acute Care/Long Term Care Outbreak Management Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness Algorithm

Are there 2 or more cases of Facility-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).
- Initiate Contact and Droplet Precautions for patients with active vomiting.
- Patients should leave the room for essential purposes only (**after performing hand hygiene** and donning clean outer clothing [plus procedure mask if vomiting]).
- Continue 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 single patient only. Clean and disinfect all reusable equipment before use on another patient.
- Wash hands with plain soap and water 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 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.
- Symptomatic staff to go home.

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) or designate.

Next Steps:

- Manager to complete Facility Care Early Outbreak Recognition Form (for CDC Intake).
- Complete Facility 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

Refer to "Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Acute Care and Facility Living Sites (Includes Influenza and Gastrointestinal Illness) July 2019" <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/Diseases/hi-dis-flu-prov-hlsl.pdf>

Further information can be found on the AHS IPC website <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/6410.asp> and in the IPC Acute Care Resource Manual <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/6854.asp>