

Checklist for *C. diff* orders

Bristol Stool Chart **Type 7**

Watery, no solid pieces ENTIRELY LIQUID

Start at #1. Check the appropriate boxes then initial under RN. When complete present the form to the Sr. Team Lead or CN to review, initial and sign before collecting a specimen or discontinuing the order.

ID#

	RN	CS	Criteria	Check appropriate boxes
1			Does the patient have diarrhea?	<p>≥ 3 LIQUID stools in the last 24 hours (ensure 3 liquid stools are documented in IView)</p> <p>- OR -</p> <p>A suspected ileus or colonic distention</p>
If yes, move on to #2. If no, stop and review with the Sr. Team Lead/CN. Do not test for <i>C.diff</i> .				
2			Consider other causes of GI distress/diarrhea; do any apply to the patient?	<p>Gastrointestinal Infections (bacterial, fungal, viral, parasite, recent travel to an endemic area, food poisoning)</p> <p>Laxatives, Bowel preps/enemas or other medications with side effect of diarrhea</p> <p>Tube feeding</p> <p>Chemotherapy</p> <p>Ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease</p> <p>Food sensitivities (lactose intolerance)</p>
If another cause is identified in #2, present the form to the Sr. Team Lead/CN. Do not test for <i>C. diff</i> . The Sr. Team Lead/CN should contact the ordering physician, provide notification of the patient's multiple liquid stools, and that the patient does not meet criteria for <i>C. diff</i> testing. Inquire about other laboratory/fecal tests (e.g., ova & parasites, stool culture) to be ordered based on other potential causes of diarrhea. If not, move on to #3.				
3			Does the patient have any symptoms of <i>C. diff</i> ?	<p>Diarrhea was sudden onset</p> <p>Abdominal pain or cramping</p> <p>Elevated WBC (>12)</p> <p>Fever (>38° C)</p>
If yes, move on to #4. If no, stop and review with the Sr. Team Lead/CN. Do not test for <i>C.diff</i> .				
4			Does the patient have any Risk Factors?	<p>Recent antibiotic use in the last 3-6 months</p> <p>Recent healthcare or communal living residence encounter (last 3-6 months, including dental work)</p> <p>Recent Proton Pump Inhibitor use</p>
If yes, move on to #5. If no, stop and review with the Clinical Supervisor. Do not test for <i>C.diff</i> .				
5			If no other causes of GI distress or diarrhea are noted, patient has symptoms, and Risk Factors are identified	<p>Order <i>C.diff</i> test</p> <p>Place patient in Special Contact Isolation</p>
RN Signature				
Clinical Supervisor Signature				

_____ (STL) Sr. Team Lead/CN has viewed the collected specimen, prior to it being sent to the lab, to ensure that the specimen is LIQUID and conforms to the shape of the specimen container. If the specimen does not meet this criteria, discard appropriately. This is not a permanent part of the medical record.



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