

## San Francisco VA Medical Center Guidelines for the Treatment of Diarrhea Associated with *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (CDI)

### Diagnosis

- Presence of diarrhea defined as 3+ unformed stools within 24 hours
- A stool test\* for the presence of *C. difficile* toxin, OR the presence of pseudomembranous colitis on colonoscopic or histopathologic exam
  - The stool sample sent to the lab must be diarrheal and take the shape of the collection container, NOT formed stool.
  - If the patient has an ileus or clinical suspicion of toxic megacolon and no active diarrhea, a stool swab can be cultured or tested by toxin assay, but the lab must be notified.
  - Each patient is allowed a maximum of 1 toxin assay per week, given the high sensitivity of the test.
  - Testing for cure is NOT recommended.
- Note that the majority of patients presenting with *C. difficile* colitis have a history of antibiotic use within the past 8 weeks, although this is not necessary to make the diagnosis.

\*At VA, testing is for *C. difficile* toxin B by PCR

### Classifying Severity of Disease

Mild/Moderate	WBC $\leq$ 15,000 & SrCr < 1.5 mg/dL
Severe	WBC > 15,000 OR SrCr $\geq$ 1.5 mg/dL
Fulminant	Presence of hypotension, shock, ileus, or megacolon

### Interpreting Lab Results

**Probable C-Diff Colonization:** Infection Control: Place in Enhanced Contact Precautions if > 3 bowel movements in the past 24 hours. Duration of Enhanced Precautions is for 48 hours after diarrhea resolves. Consider treatment if high clinical suspicion of active C-diff disease

Test	Result/Status	Flag	Units	Ref Range
CDIFF TOXB GENE PCR	POSITIVE			Ref: Negative
027-NAP1-BI	PRESUMPTIVE NEGATIVE			
C DIFF GDH ANTIGEN	POSITIVE			Ref: Negative
C DIFF TOXIN A/B	Negative			Ref: Negative

C. Diff PCR: Positive  
 C. Diff GDH Antigen: Positive  
 C. Diff Toxin A/B: Negative  
 Enter Comment:  
 C. DIFF COLONIZATION LIKELY.

C. Diff PCR: Positive  
 C. Diff GDH Antigen: Negative  
 C. Diff Toxin A/B: Negative  
 Enter Comment:  
 C. DIFF COLONIZATION LIKELY.

**Probable C-Diff Infection:** Same precautions as above. Treat if high clinical suspicion of active C-diff disease

Test	Result/Status	Flag	Units	Ref Range
CDIFF TOXB GENE PCR	POSITIVE			Ref: Negative
027-NAP1-BI	PRESUMPTIVE NEGATIVE			
C DIFF GDH ANTIGEN	POSITIVE			Ref: Negative
C DIFF TOXIN A/B	POSITIVE			Ref: Negative

C. Diff PCR: Positive  
 C. Diff GDH Antigen: Positive  
 C. Diff Toxin A/B: Positive  
 Enter Comment:  
 C. DIFF INFECTION LIKELY

### Adapted from:

- Cohen, Stuart H., et al. "Clinical practice guidelines for Clostridium difficile infection in adults: 2010 update by the society for healthcare epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the infectious diseases society of America (IDSA)." *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* 31.5 (2010): 431-455.
- Johnson, Stuart, et al. "Clinical practice guideline by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA): 2021 focused update guidelines on management of Clostridioides difficile infection in adults." *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 73.5 (2021): e1029-e1044.