

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals
Infection Control Department

Infection Control Advice for *Clostridium difficile* (*C.difficile*)

Patient Details:-

Specimen Date:-

Assessment of Patient:-

- Symptomatic with loose stools
- Asymptomatic for less than 48 hrs
- Asymptomatic for more than 48 hrs

Isolation Advice:-

- Isolation advised and possible
- Advised isolation but not possible
- Advised to nurse in cohort
- Isolation not advised, use Universal Infection Control Precautions.

Patient Placement:-

- Single Room
- Double Room
- Main Ward
- Immobile
- Mobile

Enteric Precautions:-

- En-suite facility
- Designated toilet/commode
- Incontinent (nursed in pads and pants)

Specific advice for management of symptomatic patient

- *Strict handwashing with soap and water (**Alcohol handrub is ineffective on *Clostridium difficile* spores**)
- *Encourage good patient hand hygiene especially after toileting and before meals. (consider moist hand wipes)
- *Wear single use gloves and apron for close patient/patient environment contact e.g moving patient, bedmaking
- *Treat all linen as infected (use alginate bags)
- *Inform domestic housekeeper to ensure increased environmental cleaning of room/bedspace and thorough terminal cleaning of area after clearance or discharge of patient. **Please note that cleaning should adhere to the ISOLATION CLEANING GUIDELINES using CHLORCLEAN and separate cleaning equipment**
- *Clean toilet/commode after each use, using neutral detergent and water or detergent wipes
- *Keep an accurate record of patients bowel movement using a recognised Stool Chart
- ***Ensure medical staff are informed of the result, current antibiotic treatment should be reviewed and treatment with oral metronidazole should be considered. (Consult with Microbiologist if advice required)**

***CLEARANCE CRITERIA – PATIENT IS SYMPTOM FREE FOR 48hrs**
PLEASE NOTE A CLEARANCE SPECIMEN IS NOT REQUIRED

Additional Comments _____

Please inform Infection Control of changes in the patient's infection related condition and communicate with other departments if the patient is to leave your care

Advice given to _____

DATE _____

ICN _____

Contact ext 22691 for further advice/Info

Please see reverse for management of *C. difficile* Flow Chart

