

We seek your help and support in improving our *C. difficile* prevention processes. Opportunities identified are:

1. Hand Hygiene
2. Environmental Cleaning
3. Consistent stool documentation
4. Recognition of signs and symptoms on admission
5. Antibiotic use

To prevent *C. difficile*, take the following steps:

1. Patient Care:

- **Ensure** appropriate hand hygiene for all patients and between tasks.
- **Perform** required environmental cleaning and equipment cleaning
- **Document** Bristol stool type for each stool occurrence on I&O flowsheet to assist with early detection and proper testing / treatment.

2. Early Recognition/ Testing:

- **Signs & Symptoms:** Loose stools 3 or more times / day. Other symptoms can include: Abdominal pain and tenderness, fever, nausea, loss of appetite, and/or elevated WBC with no other diarrhea cause identified.
 - New Patient? Ask about stool history during admission assessment for signs and symptoms present.
- **Testing-*C. difficile* BPA:** Overrides of the BPA are monitored.
 - Specimen collection: Collect within 24hrs of order, only stool types 6 & 7 are appropriate for testing.

3. Isolate: Place patients suspected to have *C.difficile* in Contact-Enteric Precautions:

- **Ensure communication** with signage is at entryway to door and that precautions are placed in EPIC.
- **Clean hands with soap and water.** Place STOP sign over sanitizer dispenser inside patient room.
- **Don gowns and gloves** when in the patient's room or when having contact with the patient
- **Dedicate equipment to the patient.** If equipment must go in and out of the patient room, disinfect with Bleach wipes.