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Memorandum

To: UMHS Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants

From: Megan Mack, MD, Guidelines Clinical Lead
Dave H Wesorick, MD, Guidelines Clinical Lead
F Jacob Seagull PhD, Guidelines Process Lead

Subject: **UMHS Clinical Care Guideline: Care of the Hospitalized Patient with *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Adults and Children**

What's New!



These new guidelines have been developed to assure consistent care delivery for patients with *Clostridium difficile* Infection across the inpatient services. Given the vast spectrum of patient presentations and the breadth of treatment options, management of *Clostridium difficile* Infection patients is inherently complex. Patients presenting with *Clostridium difficile* Infection may receive inconsistent care.

Key Aspects of Care



- Provide a brief overview of the epidemiology of, and risk factors for development of CDI
- Provide guidance regarding which patients should be tested for CDI
- Summarize merits and limitations of available diagnostic tests, and describe the optimal approach to laboratory diagnosis
- Review the most effective treatment strategies for patients with CDI including patients with recurrences or complications
- Some guideline highlights include:
 - Definitive diagnosis of CDI requires either the presence of toxigenic *C. difficile* in stool with other symptoms, or clinical evidence of pseudomembranous colitis

Available at: <http://www.med.umich.edu/i/oca/practiceguides/inpt.index.html>