

Clostridium difficile Care Pathway for care homes

Name:		PROBLEM: Diarrhoea caused by <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Toxin (CDT)	
Room number:			
Date commenced:	Print name of staff member:	Signature:	Band/Grade:
GOAL/AIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective resident management of <i>Clostridium difficile</i>. • Prevent cross-infection of residents, staff and visitors. • Maintain a safe clean environment. 		
ACTIONS required		Date initiated	Name, signature & band/grade
Isolation Procedures			
01	Inform resident of result & give resident information leaflet (Infection Control).		
02	All residents MUST be isolated in a side room, with separate toilet or dedicated commode. The door must be closed and an isolation sign placed on the door. (CDT positive residents with symptoms may be cohorted in a shared room on the instruction of the Health Protection Team).		
03	All staff to wear disposable apron and gloves for direct contact with body fluids and/or excretions.		
04	Staff must wash hands with liquid soap and water, and dry thoroughly before leaving the resident's room.		
05	Educate resident on the need for hand washing after using the toilet and before eating.		
06	Change all bed linen daily and treat as infected. Dispose of in water soluble liner and red linen bag.		
07	Use yellow clinical waste bags for all waste.		
08	Advise visitors to wash their hands with liquid soap and water, and dry thoroughly before they leave the resident's room.		
Treatment			
09	The General Practitioner should review current antibiotic therapy, discontinuing where possible, reviewing antibiotics daily thereafter.		
10	Once CDT has been identified, no further stool specimens should be sent. Isolation can be discontinued when bowel habit returns to normal (i.e. type 1 – 4 stool) for 72 hours. No need to await negative stool specimen.		
11	Commence stool chart if not already on one (using Bristol Stool Assessment Chart).		
12	Assess nutritional status and ensure adequate hydration. Refer to dietician if appropriate.		
Cleaning			
13	The room should be thoroughly cleaned with detergent and hot water followed by a clean using a chlorine or sodium hypochlorite disinfectant, e.g. actichlor, and daily thereafter (to include bed, toilet, commode and all horizontal surfaces). Clean commode after every use with detergent and hot water followed by a clean using the above disinfectant. Keep dedicated commode for duration of resident's stay.		
14	A post-infection (terminal) clean including change of curtains should be arranged through the Housekeeping staff.		