

# Management of Residents with Diarrhea in Continuing Care

## North Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Does the resident have loose or watery stool?

### Suspect Gastrointestinal Illness (GI)

2 or more episodes of loose or watery stool in a 24-hour period, which is new or unusual for the resident

OR

1 episode of bloody diarrhea

Place resident on Contact Precautions

If actively vomiting, place on Contact Droplet

- ✓ Send stool sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ [Refer to AHS IPC online Continuing Care Resource Manual](#)



- Hard separate lumps
- Lumpy sausage
- Cracked sausage
- Smooth soft sausage
- Soft blobs
- Fluffy pieces in liquid
- Watery (no solid pieces)

### Do you need to consider a GI/CDI outbreak?

2 or more people with onset of similar symptoms in a 48-hour period

[Refer to the Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Long Term Care, Designated Supportive Living & Hospice Sites](#)

### Suspect *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (CDI)

3 or more episodes of loose or watery stools in a 24-hour period, which is new or unusual for the patient

OR

6 or more loose or watery stools in a 36-hour period, which is new or unusual for the resident

Place resident on Contact Precautions Sporidical Clean

- ✓ Send stool sample and document frequency and consistency of bowel movements
- ✓ [Refer to AHS IPC online Continuing Care Resource Manual](#)
- ✓ Refer to AHS IPC North Zone online CDI Toolkit for further information



Discontinue precautions when resident has been without symptoms for 48 hours and has had at least one normal or formed bowel movement



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). The licence does not apply to AHS trademarks, logos or content for which Alberta Health Services is not the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer:** This material is intended for general information only and is provided on an "as is", "where is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm the accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representation or warranty, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.

For more information contact your site ICP  
© 2023 Alberta Health Services, IPC

Original date: October 13, 2016  
Revised date: December 8, 2023