## **Diarrhea Algorithm for Inpatients**



## Bowel Record initiated on patients

Acute onset of diarrhea

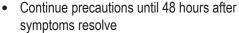
Acute onset of vomiting in addition to diarrhea

Assess patient for suspected "Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI):

- 3 or more loose stools within 24 hour period (type 6 or 7 on Bowel Record)
- **AND** stool output greater than baseline
- AND no other clinical reason for diarrhea (e.g. laxatives, bowel preparation, medical condition: Crohn's, ulcerative colitis)

Assess for possible Viral Gastroenteritis

- Start **Droplet/Contact** precautions
- Private room preferred. If unavailable, use dedicated commode and close curtains



isolation sign

Shower patient & isolation clean prior to removing

Patient *meets* criteria for suspected CDI as above?

- Place on Contact Plus Precautions (Document date and time on pathway)
- Send stool for Clostridium difficile test or obtain order from Most Responsible Physician
- Private room preferred If unavailable, use dedicated commode



Patient does not meet criteria for suspected CDI?

- Place on Contact Precautions until other sources of infectious diarrhea are ruled out or until 48 hours after symptoms
- Private room preferred If unavailable, use dedicated commode
- Consult Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) as needed

Clostridium difficile positive

- Continue Contact Plus **Precautions**
- Discontinue Contact Plus Precautions 72 hours after symptoms resolve
- Shower patient and isolation clean prior to removing isolation sign
- Consult ICP as needed

Clostridium difficile Indeterminate



- Use Point of Care Risk Assessment to assess when to discontinue Contact Plus Precautions
- Shower patient and isolation clean prior to removing isolation sign
- Consult ICP as needed

Clostridium difficile negative

- Discontinue Contact Plus **Precautions**
- Place on Contact Precautions until other sources of infectious diarrhea are ruled out or until 48 hours after symptoms resolve
- · Consult ICP as needed