

IP Provider

C. difficile Order Updates and OPA



ADULT INPATIENTS ONLY
Excluding Behavioral Health Areas

EPIC SYSTEM UPDATE

Overview of Feature / Changes

Effective April 14, 2025: The **Initiate C. difficile** admission testing protocol was created and is in some Adult Admission order sets excluding Behavior Health areas. **New modifications** have been made to the **C. difficile PCR** order and a **modified OPA** has been created based on **Policy IC D-03 Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile Policy/Procedure**. This helps detect community-acquired C. difficile infections earlier to avoid incorrect reporting of hospital-acquired infections while reducing unnecessary testing, unnecessary antibiotic usage, and support appropriate treatment decisions.

The Order

Initiate C. difficile admission testing protocol will direct the RN to complete the new C. difficile admission testing assessment and order a Community Acquired Diarrhea Panel should testing be indicated. *This order is placed in Adult Admission order sets (excluding Behavioral Health Areas) or used as a one-off order.*

Initiate C. difficile admission testing protocol

Priority: Routine

Frequency: Continuous - End on Hospital Day 3

Starting: 6/27/2024 At 1536 For 2 Hours

Starting: Today 1536 Ending: Sat 6/29

Process Instructions: RN will order Community Acquired Diarrhea Panel per protocol IF: patient has 3 or more loose stools in last 24 hours AND has not received bowel medications in last 48 hours. Refer to Appendix A of IC D-03 linked below.

Comments: Add Comments

Reference Links: IC D-03 Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile Policy/Procedure

Next Required Link Order

The **C. difficile PCR** order displays banners and relevant GI/Stool documentation, stool softener/laxative medication administrations, and any existing lab results for C. difficile. Questions dynamically display for loose stools and laxatives/stool softeners administered based on the documentation in the chart. This information supports decision-making based on the updated guidelines and assists in addressing questions in the order.

C. difficile PCR

Testing is not indicated - stool softener/laxatives were administered within the last 48 hours.

Testing is not indicated - patient has moved less than 3 stools within the last 24 hours.

GI/Stool Documentation last 24 hours from 03/18/25 1613 to 03/19/25 1613

Stool Softener/Laxatives Administered Last 48 hours (last 48 hours)

Date/Time	Action	Medication	Dose
03/19/25 1611	Given	docusate sodium (COLACE) capsule	100 mg

Active Stool Softener/Laxative Orders

Start	Last	Last	Ordered	Stop
03/19/25 2100	>	docusate sodium (COLACE) capsule 100 mg	Given: 03/19/25 1611	04/18/25 2059

Process Instructions: Tier 1 (all credentialed providers) except when not clinically indicated will become Tier 2 (requires a second signature for order entry by a trainee)

C. difficile disease is unlikely if the patient has any of the following:

- Fewer than 3 loose stools past 24 hours
- On stool softeners/laxatives past 48 hours

Frequency: Once AM Draw

At: 3/19/2025 Today Tomorrow 1613

Reference Links: C. difficile Policy/Testing Algorithm Tiered Categorization

Patient had 3 or more loose stools in the last 24 hours: No

Release to patient: Immediate Manual Release Only

Comments: Add Comments

Specimen Source: Colostomy Drainage Ileostomy Drainage Rectum

Specimen Type: Stool

Next Required Link Order

IP Provider: C. difficile Order Updates and OPA

TCOE Created: 03.10.2025 SM*INI AC Approved: 04.09.2025 AF/SAT


TCOE Revised: 03.20.2025 SM*AKH

Updated OPA

Based on the questions, when placing the **C. difficile PCR** order, the updated **Our Practice Advisory** displays to ensure appropriate decision-making during the ordering process. If testing is not clinically indicated (less than 3 loose stools within the last 24 hours or stool softeners/laxatives administered within the last 48 hours) the order will require a second signature (**Tier 2**).

The information for loose stools and medications dynamically changes based on why the OPA triggered. If it is triggered because of laxatives/stool softeners, utilize **MAR hold** and reassess the patient. Click the hyperlink or cancel the OPA and go to **Manage Orders**.

OurPractice Advisory -

 **Based on data in the chart C. difficile testing may not be indicated.**

Patient has had less than 3 loose stools in the last 24 hours.


Patient has received laxatives within the last 48 hours. Consider using the link below and place laxatives/stool softeners on MAR hold and evaluate the patient in 24 hours for testing.


Overriding this OPA requires the C. difficile PCR to become Tier 2. A second signature will be required by an attending and will not be active until approved.

Remove the following orders?

Remove

Keep


 **C. difficile PCR**
ONCE, today at 1613, For 1 occurrence Tier 1 (all credentialed providers) except when not clini...


 [go to Manage Orders to use MAR hold for lax/softeners](#)


Or select an override reason


Verbal report of stool count >= 3/24 hr

High clinical suspicion

 **Accept**

 **Second Sign**

 **Providers**

 **Sign**

Orders You Cannot Sign


Ordered by MD at 3/19/2025 1614


C. difficile PCR


ONCE, On Wed 3/19/25 at 1613. For 1 occurrence
Patient had 3 or more loose stools in the last 24 hours: No
Tier 1 (all credentialed providers) except when not clinically indicated will become Tier 2 (requires a second signature for order entry by a trainee)

C. difficile disease is unlikely if the patient has any of the following:
- Fewer than 3 loose stools past 24 hours
- On stool softeners/laxatives past 48 hours

Discontinue after 24 hours if not collected.

 Select a pharmacy

 **Providers**

 **Sign**

Medications

docusate sodium (COLACE) capsule 100 mg

100 mg, Oral, 2 Times Daily, First dose on Wed 3/5/25 at 2100, For 30 days

Modify

Hold

Discontinue