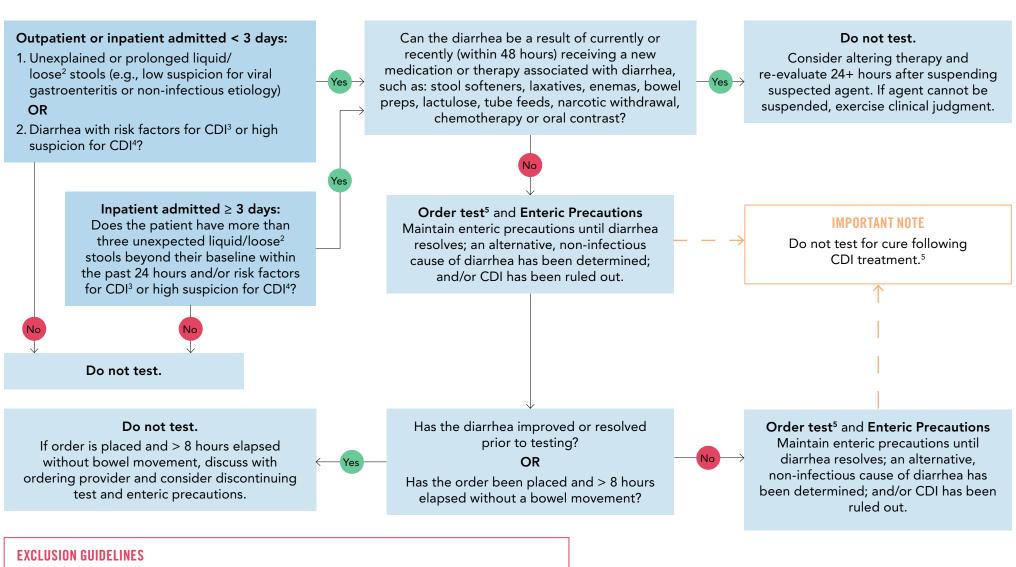
(Age > 24 months old)

TESTING ALGORITHM FOR *CLOSTRIDIOIDES DIFFICILE* INFECTION (C-DIFF/CDI)



Aim: To reduce inappropriate testing for and unnecessary treatment of Clostridioides difficile.



Patients **excluded** from this guideline:

- Children \leq 24 months of age (see note 1).
- Children tested for CDI within the last 7 days, unless **new**, significant symptoms have developed.

NOTES 1-5 See page 2

TESTING ALGORITHM FOR *CLOSTRIDIOIDES DIFFICILE* INFECTION (C-DIFF/CDI) (Age > 24 months old)



Aim: To reduce inappropriate testing for and unnecessary treatment of Clostridioides difficile.

NOTE 1

- Due to the high prevalence of asymptomatic carriage of toxigenic *C. difficile* in those < 24 months, testing for CDI is generally not recommended.
- · Consider ID consultation prior to CDI testing in this age group.
- CDI testing in this age group should be done in conjunction with testing for alternative causes of diarrhea, such as rotavirus and norovirus.
- CDI should not be assumed to be the cause of diarrhea in this age group unless there is no other plausible explanation.

NOTE 2

- · Loose/liquid stools are defined as: stool conforms to the shape of the container and/or toothpick placed standing in stool specimen will not stand on its own.
- Consult ID if there is suspicion for CDI in a patient without diarrhea.

NOTE 3

Risk factors for CDI include:

- History of recent or frequent antimicrobial therapy
- · Prolonged, frequent or recent hospitalization
- Immunosuppression or use of immunosuppressive drugs, including chemotherapy
- · Underlying inflammatory bowel disease
- History of gastrointestinal surgery or gastrointestinal manipulation, including gastrostomy or jejunostomy tubes

NOTE 4

Non-diarrheal indications of CDI include:

- · Marked leukocytosis
- · Toxic megacolon
- · Ileus
- Pseudomembranous colitis

NOTE 5

- Order Clostridium difficile Toxin PCR (childrensMN.org/references/lab/microbioviral/clostridium-difficiletoxin-pcr.pdf)
- This test is not clinically appropriate for use as "test of cure"