

C difficile initiative

Children's of Alabama

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Provider Flowchart for Appropriate C. difficile Testing Testing should be correlated with the clinical condition of the patient because current test can detect C. difficile infection OR colonization. Does the patient have diarrhea? (Diarrhea is defined as > 3 liquid stools in 24 hours.) YES NO Nursing will continue to monitor for signs and In the last 48 hours, has the patient received symptoms of infection and document consistency any laxatives or other medications that could (formed, soft or liquid) of all bowel movements. cause diarrhea? NO YES Nurse to call provider to ask about discontinuing laxatives, enemas, etc. and to review other meds. Providers should assess the following to determine if *C. difficile* testing is appropriate: Laxative/enema use in last 24 hours Number and consistency of stools (verify ≥ 3 liquid stools in 24 hours) Abdominal symptoms such as pain, Testing for C. difficile is NOT recommended unless other distension clinical indications present (refer to box on left). Vital signs WBC Tube feedings Other medications that can cause Some Medications That Can Cause Diarrhea diarrhea Laxatives Have a low threshold for seeing the patient in lactulose, bisacodyl, mag citrate, order to make an optimal decision about docusate, Go-lytely, senna, testing. polyethylene glycol and sorbitol to name a few Vomiting is not characteristic of C. difficile and Enemas raises the question of other diagnoses, such as Other Medications, including: norovirus infection. Kayexalate Colchicine

Nursing Flowchart has same information, and includes graphical descriptions of stool

Clostridium difficile Initiative

Taking it one step further

Development of a diagnostic and treatment

