

# STOP — Treat the *patient*, not the *poo*

## WAIT & EVALUATE

Considerations *before* ordering a *C. difficile* test

- Does the patient have clinically significant diarrhea?
- Are there other reasons for diarrhea?
- Does the stool sample take the shape of the collection container?
- Has the patient received laxatives or enteral feeding?
- Repeat testing or testing for “cure” is discouraged

## TAKE ACTION

Signs and symptoms of *C. difficile*

- Diarrhea (3 or more watery or unformed stools in 24 hours)
- Fever
- Abdominal pain/tenderness
- Elevated white blood cell count and creatinine levels
- Decreased albumin

**Additional risk factors include:**

- Exposure to antibiotics within the last 90 days
- Prior hospitalization or stay in long-term care facility
- Advanced age
- Use of proton-pump inhibitors

## Bristol Stool Chart

- TYPE 1**  
Separate hard lumps 
- TYPE 2**  
Lumpy and sausage like 
- TYPE 3**  
A sausage shape with cracks in the surface 
- TYPE 4**  
Like a smooth, soft sausage or snake 
- TYPE 5**  
Soft blobs with clear-cut edges 
- TYPE 6**  
Mushy consistency with ragged edges 
- TYPE 7**  
Liquid consistency with no solid pieces 

**Don't delay**—timely collection of appropriate stool samples from patients with signs and symptoms of *C. difficile* is important to identify community-onset cases accurately.



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Xpert® *C. difficile*/EPI



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