## ACUTE CARE PLAN
### FOR *Clostridium difficile*-Associated Diarrhea

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| C-difficile associated diarrhea | Control spread of C-difficile             | 1. Initiate Contact Precautions.  
2. Empty contents of commode in Dirty Service Room/Closed Hopper, not in a common use toilet.  
3. Mobility: The patient should remain in his/her own room unless going to the operating room, attending a medical treatment session, or requiring diagnostic tests.  
4. Patient and Visitor Teaching:  
   - Assist with hand washing using soap and water for at least 15 seconds— to be done prior to leaving their room, after using the toilet, prior to eating/handling food and when soiled.  
   - Teach visitors re: hand washing as above and use of appropriate PPE.  
5. Safety: **Compliance with hand washing using soap and water requires continuous reinforcement!**  
6. Documentation: Each shift, check off on the Patient Record that the appropriate care plan has been followed. |          |
|                          | Ensure Resident Confidentiality           | 1. Signage regarding Contact Precautions is required outside the patient’s room along with a stop sign.  
2. Information about the patient’s status is to remain confidential among direct care providers (ie. housekeeping/dietary staff only need to know type of precaution, not patient condition)  
3. When patient goes to another department, or is transferred to another facility, the receiving department or facility MUST be notified of need for Contact Precautions.  
4. |          |
| Persistent or recurrent diarrhea | Prevent progressive chronic infection | 1. Physician to coordinate treatment regime.  
2. Avoid anti-diarrhea agents.  
3. Observe and report progression or recurrence of symptoms. Observe abdomen for distention, ileus or megacolon.

| Retesting for C-difficile toxin | Define infection status | 1. Do NOT retest if stools normalize (test may stay positive for weeks after symptoms resolve; C-difficile considered infectious when associated with diarrhea).  
2. Once diarrhea has subsided for 48 hours Contact Precautions may be discontinued.

| Environmental Cleaning | Reduce transmission of C-difficile | 3. Stringent housekeeping practices must be performed twice daily*. The hospital grade disinfectant will be changed during an outbreak. The outbreak will be determined by the ICP.  
4. Isolation clean must be done when Contact Precautions are discontinued.  
**Full room and bathroom cleaned 1st pass. High touch areas and bathroom cleaned 2nd pass.