Flowchart for the management of *Clostridium difficile* in Care Homes

NHS Suffolk

Resident has loose stools Type 5-7 x 3 or more in 24hrs (Use Bristol Stool Chart).

Contact GP for further advice
Send stool specimen (if requested).

Include clinical details on specimen request form, i.e. Current and past antibiotics in the last six weeks.

ISOLATE RESIDENT.

Implement environment cleaning with chlorine based products.
Gloves, aprons and strict hand hygiene, with soap and water.
DO NOT use alcohol gel.
Use separate toilet or commode.

Ensure result is received from GP.
Record in notes.

IF POSITIVE FOR *CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE.*

On GP advice stop Anti-diarrhoeal and Anti-acid medication.

Provide staff, resident, family carers and visitors with information on C *diff* and safe practice.

If symptomatic then treatment should be commenced.
If symptoms have stopped then treatment may not be required.

Continue Bristol Stool Chart use, recording every bowel movement.
If symptoms do not improve within 48hrs - inform GP.

Clearance specimens are **NOT** required and will not be tested.

If symptoms return post treatment, **within** 28 days of the last sample, **DO NOT** send repeat samples, contact GP for advice.

When stools become firmer and symptoms have settled for 72hrs isolation maybe discontinued.

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