

# PROCESS CHANGE/NEW KNOWLEDGE

## TOPIC 1: C. Diff Testing Criteria PC.255

The **New** C. Diff. policy is intended to help staff establish appropriate criteria for C. Diff testing. It offers a guide for nursing on the type of stool that is considered an acceptable sample for testing. **Collect all stool samples in an empty specimen container. FYI: Do not send a stool sample for a test of cure, it is not necessary!**

### Testing inclusion Criteria:

- \* 3 or more loose and watery stools in 24 hours
- \* Stool should be liquid in consistency
- \* Documentation of the presence of **at least one** of the following:
  - \* Abdominal cramps, tenderness, or pain
  - \* Temperature >38 degrees C (100 degrees F), oral temp preferred
  - \* Radiologic evidence of colitis

### Exclusion criteria (Do not test if):

- \* Stool is formed or semi-formed (refer to the Bristol Stool chart located in Appendix 1 of the policy)
- \* Patient has had 1 or more doses of a **laxative, stool softener, enema or bowel prep**
- \* Positive C. Diff in the past **21 days**
- \* Negative C. Diff in the past **7 days**

Bristol Stool Chart	
Type 1	 Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2	 Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3	 Like a sausage but with cracks on its surface
Type 4	 Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5	 Soft blobs with clear-cut edges (passed easily)
Type 6	 Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7	 Watery, no solid pieces. <b>Entirely Liquid</b>