

# Case Definitions

## for

### *C. difficile* Enhanced Surveillance

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## Case Definition of a CDI case

A confirmed *C. difficile* associated disease (CDI) case is a patient two years or older, to whom one or more of the following criteria applies:

- Diarrhoeal\* stools or toxic megacolon, with either a positive laboratory assay for *C. difficile* toxin A (TcdA) and / or toxin B (TcdB) in stools or a toxin-producing *C. difficile* organism detected in stool via culture or other means.
- Pseudomembranous colitis (PMC) revealed by lower gastrointestinal endoscopy.
- Colonic histopathology characteristic of *C. difficile* infection (with or without diarrhoea) on a specimen obtained during endoscopy, colectomy or autopsy.

\* Diarrhoea is defined as three or more loose/watery bowel movements that take up the shape of their container (which are unusual or different for the patient) in a 24 hour period.

## Case Type

Patients that meet the CDI case definition should then be further classified as either a new case, a recurrent case or an unknown case of CDI.

If the case definition is met, it is important to establish whether this is a first positive *C. difficile* test result or whether the patient has previously had a positive *C. difficile* test result:

- a. if a first positive result then this is a notifiable **new case of CDI**
  
- b. if the patient has previously had a positive result
  - i. more than eight weeks prior and symptoms had resolved\* then this is a notifiable **new case of CDI**.
  
  - ii. Less than eight weeks prior and symptoms had resolved\* then this is a notifiable **recurrent case of CDI**
  
  - iii. and symptoms have not resolved then this is a repeat positive specimen from the same CDI episode and is **not notifiable**.

If the case definition is not met, the laboratory result is not notifiable.

**Please use the Specimen date when calculating the number of weeks since a previous positive result**

\* The definition of a resolved case is that the patient has had no diarrhoea for at least 48 hours and has had a formed or normal stool for that patient.

**\*\* See Appendix 3 of the enhanced protocol for an algorithm on determining the case type of a CDI case.**

## Onset of CDI

Onset of CDI refers to the location of the patient when symptoms of CDI first started. Please specify the onset of CDI according to the following definition:

- **Healthcare onset** » Symptoms start during a stay in a healthcare facility\* (HCF). This includes nursing homes and LTCFs.

If onset of CDI is known to be in a HCF, note the facility the onset of symptoms were in:

- **This hospital:** Select if onset of symptoms were in the reporting hospital.
- **Other hospital:** Select if onset of symptoms were in another acute hospital to the reporting hospital (i.e. a transferred patient).
- **Nursing home/LTCF:** Select if the onset of symptoms were in a nursing home or other long term care facility.
- **Other**
- **No information available**

- **Community onset** » Symptoms start in a community setting, outside health care facilities
- **No information available** » If no information was available on onset of symptoms

\* A healthcare facility is any acute care, long-term care, long-term acute care, or other facility in which skilled nursing care is provided and patients/residents are admitted at least overnight. This includes hospitals and nursing homes.

## Origin of CDI

The origin of CDI refers to which facility the case was acquired in (for surveillance purposes). Please specify the origin of CDI according to the following definition: **(See Appendix 4 and 5 of the enhanced protocol)**

- **Healthcare-associated case**

This is a CDI case with either:

- ❖ Onset of symptoms at least 48 hours following admission to a healthcare facility\* (i.e. Infection arising day 3 on-wards – where date of admission = day 1) (healthcare-onset, healthcare-associated).

OR

- ❖ With onset of symptoms in the community within 4 weeks following discharge from a healthcare facility (community-onset, healthcare-associated).

If origin of CDI is known to be healthcare-associated, note the facility the case was acquired in (for surveillance purposes):

- **This hospital:** Select if CDI case is associated with the reporting hospital.
- **Other hospital:** Select if CDI case is associated with another acute hospital to the reporting hospital (i.e. a transferred patient).
- **Nursing home/LTCF:** Select if CDI case is associated with a nursing home or other long term care facility.
- **Other**
- **No information available**

- **Community-associated case**

This is a CDI case patient with either:

- ❖ Onset of symptoms while outside a healthcare facility and without discharge from a healthcare facility within the previous 12 weeks (community-onset, community-associated).

OR

- ❖ With onset of symptoms within 48 hours following admission to a healthcare facility (i.e. symptom onset on day 1 or day 2 of admission) without residence in a healthcare facility within the previous 12 weeks (healthcare-onset, community-associated).

- **Discharged 4 – 12 weeks from a healthcare facility**

This is a CDI case patient with either:

- ❖ Onset of symptoms while outside a healthcare facility but who was discharged from a healthcare facility 4-12 weeks before the onset of symptoms

OR

- ❖ With onset of symptoms within 48 hours following admission to a healthcare facility (i.e. symptom onset on day 1 or day 2 of admission) but who was discharged from a healthcare facility 4-12 weeks before the onset of symptoms

- **No information available**

If no information was available on a CDI case patient regarding origin of infection

\* A healthcare facility is any acute care, long-term care, long-term acute care, or other facility in which skilled nursing care is provided and patients/residents are admitted at least overnight. This includes hospitals and nursing homes.

## Severity

The definition of a severe CDI is if the patient was either:

- (i) **admitted to ICU for treatment of CDI or its complications?** (e.g. for shock requiring vasopressor therapy),

OR

- (ii) the patient received **surgery as a consequence of CDI complications?** (e.g. surgery for toxic megacolon (colectomy), perforation or refractory colitis).

Answer 'Yes', if the patient meets this definition, or 'No' if they do not.

OR

Please indicate if 'No information available'.