

Case Definition for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea

Patients will be included in the surveillance project if they meet the following case definition for CDAD:

1. Diarrhea* or fever, abdominal pain and/or ileus AND laboratory confirmation of a positive toxin assay for *C.difficile*;
- OR**
2. Diagnosis of pseudomembranes on sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, or histological/pathological diagnosis of CDAD.

*Diarrhea will be defined as one of the following:

- 6 watery stools in past 36 hours
- 3 unformed stools in 24 hours for 2 days
- 8 unformed stools over 48 hours

In the event that information regarding the frequency of diarrhea is not available, the Infection Control Professional will determine if this patient has CDAD based on his/her best judgment.

Nosocomially-acquired *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea

Once included in the surveillance project, the infection will be considered nosocomially-acquired if it meets the following criteria:

1. Patient's symptoms occur \geq 3 days post-admission
- OR**
2. Symptoms cause readmission in a patient who had been hospitalized within the previous two months of the current admission date, and who is not a resident of a chronic care hospital or nursing home

Cases of CDAD that do not meet this definition will be considered community-acquired.

*An episode is defined as the time from onset of symptoms until the last day of antibiotic treatment.