

Acute infectious gastroenteritis

The case definition below was amended in April 2008 and updated in January 2010; and from 4th May 2008 replaces the one published on page 7 of the NDSC Case Definitions Version 1.1 booklet, February 2004

Case classification

Possible: N/A

Probable: Acute onset of diarrhoea and/or vomiting believed to be infective in origin but of unknown aetiology; or a clinically compatible case with an epidemiological link to a confirmed case of rotavirus

Confirmed: A case meeting above criteria that is laboratory confirmed for rotavirus or *Clostridium difficile* (see details below)

Rotavirus

A case of rotavirus infection is a patient with acute onset of vomiting followed by watery diarrhoea with fever, which typically lasts between three and eight days, AND one of the following laboratory criteria for diagnosis:

- Detection of rotavirus by antigen assay
- Detection of rotavirus-specific RNA
- Detection of rotavirus by electron microscopy
- Isolation of rotavirus

Clostridium difficile

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

- Diarrhoeal¹ 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

Notes:

1. 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.

2. The current international *C. difficile* case definition excludes diarrhoea with other known aetiology (as diagnosed by the attending physician), and asymptomatic patients with a stool culture positive for toxin-producing *C. difficile* or an assay positive for *C. difficile* TcdA and /or TcdB
3. For *C. difficile*, an additional positive result of a laboratory test performed on a specimen collected more than eight weeks after the last specimen that tested positive represents a new *C. difficile* case