Case Definitions
for
*C. difficile* Enhanced Surveillance
July 2014

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 (TdB) 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 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:

- if a first positive result then this is a notifiable new case of CDI

- if the patient has previously had a positive result
  - more than eight weeks prior and symptoms had resolved* then this is a notifiable new case of CDI.
  - Less than eight weeks prior and symptoms had resolved* then this is a notifiable recurrent case of CDI
  - 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 diarrhea 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If origin of CDI is known to be healthcare-associated, note the facility the case was acquired in (for surveillance purposes):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ <strong>This hospital:</strong> Select if CDI case is associated with the reporting hospital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ <strong>Other hospital:</strong> Select if CDI case is associated with another acute hospital to the reporting hospital (i.e. a transferred patient).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ <strong>Nursing home/LTCF:</strong> Select if CDI case is associated with a nursing home or other long term care facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ <strong>Other</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ <strong>No information available</strong></td>
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- **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 vasopresser 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’.