

The Infection Prevention and Control Team will maintain contact with you through your treatment and recovery. They can be contacted on 01502 719 518

Compliments, comments, concerns or complaints

Patient Liaison -

may be the best starting point if you have a question or concern about the NHS. If you would like to find an NHS dentist, know where your nearest doctor is or talk through a problem you have had with a service, you can contact the PALS service.

To contact Patient Liaison Manager:
Call 01502 718666
Monday to Friday,
Email: ECCH.patientliaison@nhs.net
Or write to:
Patient Liaison Manager
ECCH
1 Common Lane North
Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9BN

If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio cassette, Braille or in a different language please contact Andrea Dawson on 01502 718600 or Email:ecch.enquiry@nhs.net

Jei šios publikacijos kopija noretumete gauti savo kalba prašome susisiekti su Andrea Dawson on 01502 718600 or Email:ecch.enquiry@nhs.net

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Se pretender uma cópia desta publicação no seu idioma, por favor contacte Andrea Dawson no número 01502 718600 Email:ecch.enquiry@nhs.net



What is Clostridium Difficile?

Patient information leaflet



Produced by East Coast Community Healthcare Infection, Prevention and Control Team
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* **What is Clostridium difficile?**

Clostridium difficile (commonly called C.diff) is a bacteria found in the intestine along with other bacteria. Sometimes as a result of taking antibiotics, some bacteria are destroyed but C.diff survives and multiplies.

* **What does a GDH positive result mean for me?**

GDH is an abbreviation for Glutamate dehydrogenase, which is a chemical found in C.diff.

If the result is GDH positive a second test is performed to look for toxins that are produced when C.diff is causing an infection.

If the second stage of testing shows you **do not** have the toxins present, this means you **do not** have a C.diff infection, but you carry the C.diff bacteria in your bowels.

* **How will I know if I have C.diff?**

The main symptom of C.diff is diarrhoea which can range from mild to severe. Abdominal pain, fever, loss of appetite and sickness may also be present.

* **How is it diagnosed?**

A faecal (poo) sample is sent to the laboratory to confirm whether or not you have C.Diff infection.

* **Can it be treated?**

Where possible any antibiotics you are taking will be stopped. You may be given an alternative antibiotic to treat the C.diff infection.

It is very important that you do not become dehydrated, so remember to drink plenty of water.

You should also stop taking any laxatives that you may have.

* **How does C.diff spread?**

The main risk is person to person contact e.g. hand to hand contact and via hand to mouth contact, although the bacteria can survive in the environment for long periods of time.

* **How can the spread be prevented?**

Good hand washing is the single most important infection prevention and control measure.

Remember to wash your hands with soap and water and dry them thoroughly on a clean towel;

- Before and after using the toilet.
- Before handling food.
- After handling soiled bedding or clothing.



Do **NOT** share towels, facecloths etc. with any other person.

Clothing, bed linen, towels etc. should be washed at 60°C or above if possible or at 40°C using washing powder that contains bleach in order to destroy the C.diff bacteria.

Cleaning around the home should be carried out with detergent and a bleach based product.

Particular attention should be given to:

- Washbasins
- Baths
- Toilet seat and handles
- Showers
- Any surface which comes into contact with the hands e.g. door Handles, telephones and keyboards.

It is important to use a clean cloth each time to prevent surfaces being re-infected.

- Use disposable cleaning cloths.
- Or wash the cloth at 60°C or above.

* **What should I do if my diarrhoea starts again?**

If your diarrhoea starts again once you have completed any course of antibiotics, you should contact your GP.

WASHING YOUR HANDS USING LIQUID SOAP & WATER IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. HAND SANITISER IS NOT EFFECTIVE AGAINST C.DIFF BACTERIA