C. difficile Diagnostic Specimens

Patient has watery diarrhea

< 3 loose stools in past 24 hours?

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

On laxatives or tube feedings?*

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

Absence of nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, fever, or blood/pus in the stool?

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

The stool pattern is typical for this patient?

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

Diagnosed OR treated for C. diff in the past 4 weeks?**

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

Recent negative C. diff test (limit to one test, whether positive or negative)

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YES  
Don't test at this time.

Start Modified Contact Precautions

If probable C. diff (with or without a diagnostic specimen)

Initiate C. diff treatment orders

*Consider stopping laxative/stool softener. If tube feeding or laxatives are long-term, may consider a Nutrition consult prior to ordering a C. diff PCR.

**If severe, recurrent C. diff is suspected, an Infectious Disease consult may be indicated.