

## Clostridium Difficile Policy

Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) is associated with significant morbidity and mortality.

Individuals most at risk of CDI are aged 65 years and over who are currently receiving antibiotics or have received them in the previous three months. Prudent antibiotic prescribing reduces the risk of CDI and of relapsing infection, which occurs in 20% of cases. Broad-spectrum agents in particular should not be prescribed unless there is a clear clinical need. North Yorkshire Guidance for use of Antimicrobials in Primary Care is available from:

<http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/antimicrobials/>

The following policy has been agreed across the CCG:

1. All clostridium difficile infections and colonisations will be recorded as a **major active** or **significant active problem** in practice patient records with no time lapse – this includes notes summarised if a patient registers with a new general practice.
2. **Root cause analysis** (RCA) requests from provider organisations are to be completed promptly. On completion of the RCA, prescribers may be contacted again to follow up identified issues.
3. Consider using **major alert messages** (pop-up boxes) on medical record loaded on GP computer system.
4. Entry to be made on medical record as **Allergy Unspecified** or **Allergy Antimicrobials** with free text of “Clostridium Difficile Infection *with date*” or “Clostridium Difficile colonisation *with date*”.
5. Entry to be made via special notes for **Out of Hours Service** to record “clostridium difficile infection *with date*” or “Clostridium Difficile colonisation *with date*”.
6. **Take great care before prescribing antibiotics** in any patient with a history of clostridium difficile infection or colonisation. In cases where it is not clear what to prescribe, discuss with Medical Microbiologist before a decision is made:
  - available through from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:
    - **01642 282604 - 9.00-17.00 Monday to Friday**
    - **or via switchboard if urgent at any other time.**

**Approved by:** HRW CCG CDI Reduction Action Group  
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