

Antibiotic Use Within the Past 30 Days

- Recognized risk factors for older children acquiring *C. difficile* infection (CDI) include antimicrobial therapy
- Receipt of antimicrobials increases risk of CDI because of normal bowel flora suppression, thereby providing a "niche" for *C. difficile* to flourish
- Longer exposure to antimicrobials, and exposure to multiple antimicrobials concurrently increase risk for CDI
- Receipt of antibiotics within 4 weeks has been associated with an increased risk of CDI development in children

These guidelines do not establish a standard of care to be followed in every case. It is recognized that each case is different and those individuals involved in providing health care are expected to use their judgment in determining what is in the best interests of the patient based on the circumstances existing at the time. It is impossible to anticipate all possible situations that may exist and to prepare guidelines for each. Accordingly these guidelines should guide care with the understanding that departures from them may be required at times.