

Post-test Questions

1. Describe characteristics of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria.
2. Describe at least one important factor associated with the development of CDI in long-term care residents.
3. State the difference between colonization and infection with *Clostridium difficile* bacteria.
4. Describe at least three ways that you can prevent the spread of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria in long-term care facilities.



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Post-test Answers

1. Describe characteristics of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria.

Answers:

- Can't survive very well in oxygen
- Live in the human gut
- Can turn themselves into spores; spores are difficult to remove from the environment and surfaces
- Spores can return to a vegetative form when in the human gut, where they can cause disease
- Cause disease by producing two toxins

2. Describe at least one important factor associated with the development of CDI in long-term care residents.

Answers:

- Antibiotic use (most important risk factor)
- Advanced age (>65 years)
- Use of nasogastric (NG) or gastrostomy (GT or G-tube) feeding tubes
- Use of antacids or other medications that decrease stomach acid
- Severe underlying medical conditions that make it harder for people's bodies to fight infection (people receiving steroids, cancer chemotherapy, anti-rejection drugs after transplant; or who have existing conditions such as HIV or AIDS)

3. State the difference between colonization and infection with *Clostridium difficile* bacteria.

Answer: Residents who are colonized carry the bacteria but do not have symptoms of infection. Residents infected with *C. diff* bacteria will have symptoms of disease (watery diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, perforations of the colon, sepsis, elevated white blood cell count, death)

4. Describe at least three ways that you can prevent the spread of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria in long-term care facilities.

Answers:

- **CDI surveillance programs**
- **Hand hygiene**
- **Standard Precautions**
- **Contact Precautions**
- **Isolation Precautions**
- **Environmental cleaning and disinfecting**