

Post-test Questions

1. Describe characteristics of the *Clostridium difficile* bacterium.
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 transmission of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria in long-term care facilities.



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Post-test Answers

1. Describe characteristics of the *Clostridium difficile* bacterium.

Answers:

- Anaerobic
- Spore-forming; spores are difficult to remove from the environment and surfaces
- Gram-positive bacilli
- Live in the human intestinal tract
- Named for Latin term "difficile"; difficult to culture in the laboratory
- Cause disease by producing two toxins, Toxin A (enterotoxin) and Toxin B (cytotoxin)

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

Answers:

- Antibiotic exposure (most important risk factor)
- Advanced age (>65 years)
- Use of nasogastric or gastrostomy feeding tubes
- Gastric acid suppression (due to use of antacids, proton pump inhibitors or histamine-2 antagonists)
- Severe underlying medical, immunocompromising conditions

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

Answer: Residents who are colonized carry the bacteria but do not have signs of infection. Residents infected with *C. diff* bacteria will have signs 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 transmission of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria in long-term care facilities.

Answers:

- Implementation of CDI surveillance
- Hand hygiene
- Standard Precautions
- Contact Precautions
- Isolation Precautions
- Environmental cleaning and disinfecting